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## OIC chief cool to Mideast linkage

JEDDAH (AP) — Efforts to solve the Palestinian problem could follow an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, the head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said Saturday. But Hamid Al Ghabid, who is secretary-general of the 45-nation body, hinted in a letter to His Majesty King Hussein that he rejects a linkage between the two issues. "The extremely serious tension and the massive arrival of foreign forces in the Gulf region should be linked to the unacceptable decision of the Iraqi authorities to purely and simply annex the state of Kuwait," Ghabid wrote. "We shall put in efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian tragedy once the current Gulf crisis is over," he wrote. Ghabid, a former prime minister of Niger, described Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as "unjustified, tragic and unfortunate." The contents of the King's letter were not revealed.

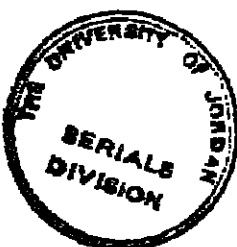
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## Iran has to import refined oil

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran still needs to import refined oil for domestic demand, although its refineries are producing at more than 20 per cent their design capacities, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Saturday. Aqazadeh, in an interview with Tehran Radio, said Iran's seven refineries were producing 920,000 barrels of oil products per day. That was 200,000 barrels above their normal capacity. He said the refineries were producing enough petrol, but that 234,000 barrels of kerosene and diesel had to be imported daily from the Netherlands and other European countries. Aqazadeh said Iran had problems transporting its oil, and that 2,000 tankers have been bought to relieve those problems. Another 1,400 tankers were hired from neighbouring Turkey, he said. The new tanker would start operating in the next Iranian year, beginning on March 22. Another 500 tankers will be manufactured domestically, raising the number of Iranian tankers in service to 10,000, Aqazadeh said.

## Iraq hits Pravda

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq accused Pravda Saturday of spreading lies about it and said the Soviet Communist Party newspaper had fallen under U.S. influence. "American fingers have reached... some of its (Pravda's) pens and are selecting fabricated news aimed at distorting and damaging Soviet-Iraqi relations," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassem as saying. Jassem called on Pravda to "preserve the credibility of the Soviet media." Without referring to any specific article in Pravda, he said the newspaper was publishing stories about Iraq's internal affairs.

## GCC ministers meet in Doha

DOHA (AP) — The Gulf crisis took top billing as the foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) gathered Saturday. The officials are to draw up an agenda for the summit of GCC heads of state in Doha, scheduled for Dec. 22, but an informed source said they would also hold talks on the crisis. The source said the ministers would discuss results of their contacts with Arab and other countries on ways to achieve an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait. No further details were available on the likely contents of the discussions, which were to take place mostly behind closed doors.

## Somali peace talks postponed

CAIRO (R) — Peace talks between the Somali government and five rebel groups scheduled to have started in Cairo Tuesday have been postponed indefinitely, Egypt said on Saturday. Leaders of the rebel groups said in Rome Friday they would boycott the talks because of a crackdown by their government's military. "In light of contacts with Somali parties in which they expressed their desire for a postponement, it was agreed with Italy they should be postponed," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters after meeting Somalia's ambassador to Egypt. Egypt and Italy, the former colonial power, were due to have mediated in the talks aimed at ending 12 years of civil war in Somalia.

## Aga Khan to quit as Afghan coordinator

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan will step down at the end of the month as coordinator for U.N. humanitarian and economic aid programmes to Afghanistan, a U.N. spokesman said. He was appointed in May 1988 after the signing of the Geneva accords that led to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Sadruddin, 57, launched a major programme of emergency relief and rehabilitation called "Operation Salam" for which more than \$1 billion in cash and kind have so far been pledged.

## 100,000 demonstrate in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (R) — About 100,000 people demonstrated in Khartoum Saturday in support of the Palestinian uprising. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir greeted students shouting anti-American slogans and carrying banners calling for a holy war to liberate Jerusalem. Government offices gave employees the day off to mark the third anniversary Sunday of the start of the uprising.

## Tunisia had plan to take 15 heads of state to Iraq

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali had planned to invite 15 Arab, African and non-aligned heads of state to go to Baghdad with him in search of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, official sources said Saturday. Ben Ali had made contact with some of the countries over the past two weeks but has suspended the project because of the latest developments between Baghdad and Washington, they said.

# Occupied lands at a standstill

## Palestinians stage massive strike to mark anniversary of intifada

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied territories staged a general strike Saturday on the occasion of the third anniversary of their intifada and to commemorate the Oct. 8 massacre of over 20 Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem.

Large sections of the occupied West Bank, including such principal cities as Nablus and Hebron, and most of the Gaza Strip remained under army-imposed curfews. The curfews were ordered Friday to prevent possible marches and violence. On Saturday, Palestinians mark two months since the Oct. 8 killings and Sunday is the third anniversary of their uprising.

Life in the occupied territories came to a standstill Saturday at the onset of the two-day general strike, called by the unified national leadership of the uprising and the Hamas movement.

There were no reports of violence.

Shops were shut and no vehicles, apart from army cars, were seen on the West Bank roads. In Ramallah, a town declared a "closed military area" by the army, the only sign of life were children playing soccer in the street.

Increased police and paramilitary border police forces patrolled the Arab Jerusalem. Arab passersby were stopped and searched, witnesses said.

Before dawn Saturday, unidentified assailants, presumably Arabs, fired several shots at a border police patrol in the Arab Jerusalem neighbourhood of Shuafat. There were no injuries, police said.

Also Saturday, hundreds of Israelis from the left-wing Peace Now movement gathered in front of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's residence to mark the uprising anniversary. They carried burning torches and placards mentioning violent events of the revolt.

In large newspaper ads published Friday, the movement demanded a "political separation from the (occupied) territories" and said time has come to "put an end to the circle of bloodshed."

In the West Bank, leaflets distributed by two Palestinian groups called for an escalation of the intifada as it enters its fourth year.

Police expelled about 10 Jews of the anti-Arab Kach movement from Jerusalem's Haran Al Sharif, the site of the Oct. 8 massacre, after they began shouting insults at passing Palestinians. The complex house Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine.

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(Continued on page 5)

# Iraq proposes Dec. 17 and Jan. 12 for talks with U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq and the United States have run into disagreement over proposed dates for talks involving Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Washington and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday.

Iraq formally proposed Dec. 17 as the date for Aziz to go to Washington and Jan. 12 for Baker's talks with Saddam Hussein, INA said.

The Foreign Ministry said it had informed the American charge d'affaires in Baghdad of its proposal.

The INA learned that the American side proposed other dates for the two meetings that were found not suitable for the Iraqi side, the agency said.

It said also that the Foreign Ministry had "informed the American side that Iraq affirms its position that talks in Washington and Baghdad should be based on real desire for dialogue and exchange of opinion in a comprehensive, serious and thorough manner in which both sides table their considerations and issues based on their positions and that concern must be centred on seeking understanding as an alternative for the language of threat."

It said Iraq had made it clear that it believes an overall approach to Middle East problems was needed, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict.

INA said Iraq's proposal on Aug. 12, linking the Gulf crisis with all Middle East issues, "is the correct start to solve all the region's problems and first and foremost the Palestinian question."

President George Bush has insisted that there be no linkage and has said he would tell Aziz and Saddam through Baker that Iraq must leave Kuwait without conditions.

INA said the Iraqi ministry added that Iraq would stick to "Iraq's national rights, including its rights in the governorate of Kuwait."

Iraq renamed Kuwait its 19th province after it annexed the

emirate it invaded on Aug. 2.

A U.S. State Department spokeswoman said Friday that Washington would not agree to set up the Bush-Aziz talks until Baghdad agreed on a date for the Saddam-Baker meeting.

Aziz said Friday that he needed no instruction from Bush on the facts of the Gulf crisis.

Aziz instead suggested that Bush use their White House meeting to open a peace dialogue.

In a television interview, Aziz said Bush was mistaken in his view that President Saddam is an isolated dictator unaware of the danger he faces from a vast multinational force deployed in the Gulf.

"He (Bush) is absolutely wrong," Aziz told ABC Television.

Aziz said Bush thus would be wasting time if he devotes the projected meeting to stressing the U.S. threat to drive Iraq forces out of Kuwait if they do not withdraw by a U.N. deadline of Jan. 15.

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visits an exhibition of works by Jordanian and Palestinian artists after opening week-long cultural activities to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian intifada (Petra photo)

# Jordan marks uprising anniversary with week-long cultural activities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday attended the opening of cultural activities organised by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Department of Culture of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in commemoration of the third anniversary of the intifada.

The week-long events include activities such as poetry readings by Jordanian and Palestinian poets, seminars and speeches as well as plays depicting the meaning of the uprising against the Israeli occupation and reflecting the unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and their solidarity in the face of Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian struggle for liberating the occupied territories. The events will end with the presentation of medals to distinguished intellectuals, poets and writers.

Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki addressed the opening session held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), paying tribute to the Palestinian people involved in the uprising. The intifada, he said, "is one bright image of the long-standing struggle of the Arab world, and it is an honourable struggle in the face of colonial and racist powers and repression."

"Today we salute the intifada, the Palestinian martyrs and those wounded in the fight for freedom and those carrying stones and daggers to fight for their liberation," the minister said.

"The Palestinian people remind the Arabs of their ancestors, those vanguards who led the Islamic conquest and helped to propagate Islam worldwide," he said.

Karaki said the joint struggle against Zionists and the other invaders waged by the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples since the 1920s have set the stage for their descendants "who are today united in their will and determination to pursue the fight for freedom and unity."

Another speaker was Abdullah Al Hourani, head of the PLO's Cultural Department, who voiced appreciation of those who exerted efforts to organise the cultural events in commemoration of the intifada.

"The staunch support and solidarity displayed by the Jordanian people towards their Palestinian brothers is one form of expressing this joint struggle," he said.

Among those attending the opening session with King Hussein were Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid as well as Cabinet members, Parliament deputies and Palestine National Council members in Amman in addition to a large gathering.

Following the opening, King Hussein opened an exhibition of Palestinian embroideries displaying samples of work done by residents of Palestinian villages and refugee camps.

King Hussein also opened a plastic art exhibition displaying works by Jordanian and Palestinian artists depicting the joint struggle and the sufferings of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

(Continued on page 5)

# King meets Gandhi envoy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and an envoy of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Saturday discussed the Gulf crisis and efforts to arrive at a peaceful negotiated solution to the problem.

Romesh Bhandari, head of the foreign affairs department of Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, told the Jordan Times the discussions "focused on the Gulf crisis and the latest developments in the region."

He declined to elaborate, saying "It is too early to make any definite comment." But it is believed that the mission of Bhandari, who has served as the senior-most official in the Indian Foreign Ministry in the Gandhi government, is related to the ongoing mission undertaken by former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

The King's meeting with the veteran Indian diplomat was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the King's senior aides as well as the Indian ambassador in Jordan, Gajendra Singh.

Bhandari is heading for Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders, including President Saddam Hussein, as part of behind-the-scenes Third World diplomacy in endeavours to avert a war in the region and seek a negotiated settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Analysts point out that the efforts have continued despite international scepticism over their chances of success in the face of the anti-Iraq coalition effectively controlled by the United States. Very little detail of the endeavours has been revealed so far.

From the very outset of the crisis, triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, India has been advocating an Arab solution to the problem. Leading Indian politicians and commentators argue that the Third World, while remaining firm against the acquisition of

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# Foreigners begin leaving Iraq; Bush says peace is not closer

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Foreign nationals began leaving Iraq Saturday on chartered Iraqi Airways flights. Others formerly held at military targets began to pour into Baghdad.

President Saddam Hussein said on Thursday that all foreigners should be released, and the Iraqi parliament approved the plan on Friday. However, it was not immediately clear how fast the departures could be arranged for all the foreigners.

A group of 41 Japanese men whose release was approved prior to Thursday arrived in Amman Saturday aboard an Iraqi Airways jetliner. Iraqi authorities also took 17 Americans to the airport in Baghdad for a flight to Jordan later Saturday chartered by former U.S. Treasury Secretary John Connally.

Nureddin Al Safi, the head of Iraqi Airways, said the airline was prepared to fly all foreigners out of Iraq within three days if their travel documents are ready. He said no foreign carriers will be allowed to fly the foreigners out of Iraq.

There was no immediate indication when other foreigners would be issued exit visas, compulsory under Iraqi law. Government officials said it might take several days to process their documents.

Safi said American officials chartered one of the airline's Boeing 707s to fly to Kuwait Sunday morning to pick up stranded Americans. He said the United States also chartered a Boeing 747 to fly those Americans and others in Baghdad to Frankfurt later Sunday.

He said the Italian government also had chartered a Boeing 707 to fly about 50 Italians to Rome Sunday. The Foreign Ministry in Rome said there may be as many as 70 Italians on the flight scheduled to leave Baghdad at 0900 GMT.

Safi said the state airline would "serve as the exclusive carrier for guests departing the country."

He said Baghdad was insisting on using Iraqi planes for the airlift to break an economic blockade imposed by the United Nations.

"Iraqi Airways is prepared from this moment to transport all guests who are being released... to their native countries," Safi said.

"Only Iraqi Airways will be used to carry them. We are not allowing foreign aircraft," he said.

He said Iraq's goal was "to break the air blockade imposed on Iraqi Airways."

The order to free foreigners improved the atmosphere for

Gulf crisis talks Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz is due to hold with U.S. President George Bush in Washington next week.

They will be followed by talks between Saddam and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Baghdad before the deadline of Jan. 15 set by the U.N. for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face war.

In a U.S. television interview, Aziz said he thought all the foreigners — mostly Britons and Americans — would be out of Iraq by Christmas, 17 days away.

"I think by Christmas everybody could leave," he said.

The state airline has prepared a fleet of aircraft, including Boeing 747 Jumbo jets, to fly the foreigners out, he said in a telephone interview.

However, he said the airline might not be able to fly Britons directly to London because it is afraid British authorities might retaliate and seize the airlines. A British Airways Boeing 747 that landed in Kuwait before the Aug. 2 invasion is still being held by Iraqi authorities.

Safi said any British charter could, however, fly to another European point, probably Frankfurt or Paris.

Meanwhile, Westerners held at potential military targets in Iraq

(Continued on page 5)

# OPEC predicts \$23-\$27 oil price

VIENNA (R) — Economists grappling with the implications of the Gulf crisis forecast oil prices averaging between \$23 and \$27 a barrel in 1991, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) sources said.

But officials say war would throw all predictions into disarray. "There are very serious variables," was one delegate's understated comment on the latest forecast.

OPEC ministers, sitting on a suspended price and production quota agreement, meet Tuesday knowing that until the crisis is resolved any policy changes would be premature.

Some are clearly uneasy that falling demand and high stocks of refined products will seriously weaken prices next spring.

The new OPEC secretariat forecasts compare with a \$21 minimum reference price set by OPEC last July. The price

and output accord was suspended after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The average price of the basket of crudes used to calculate the reference price was \$27.2 in the first week of this month, the lowest since mid-August as hopes of peace in the Gulf crisis soared with Iraq's decision to free all foreigners.

But one OPEC secretariat official cautioned: "Any political mishap and the price could jump \$5."

The secretariat study, which was presented at this weekend's economic commission board meeting of OPEC experts, foresees OPEC's share of world demand for crude oil running at 22.8 million barrels per day (bpd) next year.

Production by the 13 member countries is reckoned to be currently running around 23 million bpd.

Kuwaiti and Iraqi production is down by more than four million bpd because of the U.N. trade embargo, but other producers, notably Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates, have driven up their output to make up the loss.

OPEC will have to act fast if Iraq and Kuwait resume exporting, and an emergency meeting to draft a new pact limiting output is likely to be called once the dust settles in the Gulf.

The secretariat forecasts a 2-2.1 million bpd drop in demand for OPEC oil to 21.2 million bpd in the second quarter of 1991 as winter ends in the Northern Hemisphere, a fall about 5-600,000 bpd bigger than expected a month ago.

"The OPEC economists' forecast for first quarter demand is little changed from a

(Continued on page 4)



## Resistance, Israelis clash in S. Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli troops and allied militiamen fought a two-hour artillery battle Saturday with guerrillas inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources said.

They said guerrillas fired four Katyusha rockets on a position manned by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at Zumaraya, three kilometres north of Rashaya, at 1 a.m. Saturday (2300 GMT Friday).

The sources said no casualties were reported.

Rashaya, 18 kilometres south-west of Tyre, is in the eastern sector of the "security zone," which abuts the Bekaa Valley.

Simultaneously, guerrillas shelled a joint Israeli-SLA hilltop base at 'Ain Qenya and the SLA headquarters in Zaghla, both near Zumaraya, with 60-mm mortar rounds, the sources added.

"That touched off a two-hour artillery duel between the Israelis and the SLA on one side and resistance men on the other," said one source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Israeli and SLA gunners responded with 155-mm howitzers on Mimas and 'Ain Alal, near Hasbaya, and mopped Mimas Valley with heavy

machine gun fire.

Fateh-Uprising, a Syrian-backed breakaway Palestinian faction, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying they were carried out on the occasion of the third anniversary of the intifada.

"Our guerrillas clashed with the Zionist forces and SLA militia in Zumaraya, 'Ain Qenya and Zaghla, inflicting many casualties among the enemy and their allies," said a Fateh-Uprising statement released in Beirut.

The SLA-run Voice of the South radio station, which admitted SLA position came under guerrilla fire, did not speak of any casualties among its militiamen or Israeli soldiers.

The incident was the latest in an upsurge of violence in the "security zone" between Israeli troops and SLA militiamen on one hand, and Lebanese and Palestinian guerrillas on the other.

Five Israeli soldiers were killed and eight guerrillas were wounded in a clash last week.

Israel carved out the "security zone" after it pulled out the bulk of its occupation army in the summer of 1985, ending a three-year invasion of the region.

The zone serves as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla infiltrations into northern Israel.



A Palestinian casualty is removed from Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif complex after the Oct. 8 massacre

## Intifada enters fourth year

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip enters a fourth year Sunday.

At least 742 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and a further 283 by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of helping Israel. Fifty-five Jews have also died.

Following are the main events of the last three years:

— Dec. 9, 1987: Revolt erupts over deaths of four Gaza residents in collision that Palestinians blame on Israeli truck driver.

Protests spread in ensuing days to the West Bank.

— Jan. 19, 1988: Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin insists Israel will crush revolt with "might, force and beatings."

— Feb. 25, 1988: Palestinians lynch resident of Kabatiya in the West Bank in first killing of a suspected collaborator with Israel.

— April 6, 1988: Palestinians in Beit village of the West Bank attack Jewish settlers on a walk; 15-year-old girl shot dead by Israeli guard, becoming first Israeli civilian casualty of the revolt.

— April 16, 1988: Palestinian guerrilla leader Khalil Al Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, assassinated

at his home in Tunis by Israeli commandos. Israeli sources say, Israeli troops kill 18 Palestinians in demonstrations of the same day.

— July 31, 1988: Jordan announces disengagement from the West Bank to let the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) take full responsibility for the Palestinian people.

— Oct. 30, 1988: Palestinians kill three Israelis in a firebomb attack on bus near Jericho in the West Bank.

— Nov. 15, 1988: Palestine National Council declares an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

— Dec. 14, 1988: President Ronald Reagan says United States ready to open dialogue with the PLO, ending a 13-year boycott, after Chairman Yasser Arafat says he recognises Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism.

— April 13, 1989: Israeli police kill five Palestinians in Nahalin village of the West Bank in one of the bloodiest clashes of the revolt.

— May 14, 1989: Israeli cabinet votes 20-6 to accept Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's initiative calling for Palestinians to elect

negotiators to discuss self-rule with Israel; only Washington, Israel's closest ally, endorses the plan.

— May 22, 1989: Army announces arrest of 250 activists from the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas), including its leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin; group is challenging the PLO for Palestinian support in the occupied territories.

— July 6, 1989: Abdul Hadi Suleiman Ghneim, 25, of the Gaza Strip, seizes the wheel of Israeli bus travelling the Main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, sends vehicle plunging into a ravine; 16 Jews die in the bloodiest attack for 11 years.

— Aug. 27, 1989: Israel expels five more Palestinians from the occupied territories, bringing to 58 the number expelled since the start of the uprising.

— September-October 1989: Israeli army confiscates \$5 million in property from Beit Sahour, besieged West Bank town, for non-payment of taxes.

— March 13, 1990: Israel's left-right unity government fails over Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever talks with Palestinians, Shamir fears it

will bring Israel into contact with the PLO.

— May 20, 1990: Israeli gunman Ami Popper kills eight Arab job-seekers at a pickup point in Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv.

— May 30, 1990: Israel kills four Arabs and captures 12 in foiled sea attack that prompts the United States to sever PLO contacts on June 20 after 18 months.

— June 11, 1990: Shamir wins parliamentary vote of confidence for most right-wing government in Israeli history.

— Sept. 20, 1990: Palestinians stone and burn to death a soldier who blunders into Gaza's Bureij refugee camp in his car. Israel demolishes many shops and houses in the camp.

— Oct. 8, 1990: Israeli police shoot dead at least 20 Arabs in Jerusalem. The Arab deaths are the most numerous in a single civil incident since Israel occupied Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war.

— Oct. 21, 1990: Palestinian Omar Abu Sirhan, 19, slays to death three Jews to avenge the Oct. 8 killings; Arabs kill a Jew and wound several in similar reprisals over six weeks.

## Velayati back from Paris talks on financial dispute

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran Saturday after a three-day visit to France aimed at settling a financial dispute that had strained ties between the countries since 1979.

Velayati told the Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Cyprus, that President Francois Mitterrand had assured him of France's commitment to settling the dispute. He said his deputy Mahmoud Vaezi had remained in Paris to deal with the matter.

The dispute concerns a one-billion-dollar loan made to France by the Shah of Iran in 1975, four years before he was deposed by the Islamic revolution.

France has paid back two-thirds of the loan, but Iran is demanding an additional \$1 billion in accrued interest.

France meanwhile is demanding compensation for French companies forced out of Iran during the 1979 revolution.

"Both our presidents have given good and clear instructions for us to sit down together and solve this financial problem... and we will leave Mr. Vaezi here to achieve a concrete conclusion," Velayati told a news con-

ference in Paris Friday.

"It is not acceptable for either of us that this financial difficulty persists."

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Velayati's visit opened a new period in Franco-Iranian relations.

The two countries broke off diplomatic relations for a year between 1987 and 1988 over the alleged involvement of an Iranian embassy official in a series of bombings in France.

"This visit marks the achievement of the normalisation of relations between our two countries," Dumas said.

Velayati also had talks with Prime Minister Michel Rocard and Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget Pierre Berégovoy.

Tehran Radio quoted Velayati as saying there had been recent breakthroughs in Franco-Iranian relations in the industrial, commercial, and political fields.

"Both sides are striving to eliminate all difficulties. Only financial problems remain, and these have been under discussion for a few years now," Velayati said, according to the radio which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

## Afghan Mujahedeen reject President's peace proposal

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — An Afghan guerrilla leader Saturday dismissed a flurry of diplomatic activity by President Najibullah as an effort to divide the resistance to the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Burhanuddin Rabbani told a news conference he and other Mujahedeen leaders rejected Najibullah's offer to hand over substantial powers to a neutral commission as part of a political settlement of the 12-year-old war.

"We reject this as we have previously rejected his proposals," Rabbani told reporters in Peshawar, the northern Pakistan city that is the base for most of the guerrilla leaders.

"The direct activities of Na-

jibullah are his desperate efforts to create rifts and divisions and they will not produce any result."

Najibullah this week expanded on an earlier offer to hand over control of the armed forces and Interior Ministry to a neutral commission that would rule the country until elections.

The United States and the Soviet Union, main backers of the two sides in the conflict, have agreed that Najibullah could retain some role during a transitional period but differences remain.

The guerrilla groups publicly refuse to contemplate any role for the Afghan president, although diplomats in Islamabad said at least one of them met Najibullah in Geneva last month.

## Algerian fundamentalists demand Benjedid clarify poll date

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Muslim fundamentalist leader Abbasi Madani has demanded President Chadli Benjedid clarify remarks on the date of next year's first free general elections and warned of violence if they were postponed.

Madani, president of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), told a news conference Friday that Benjedid's statement on Wednesday that the poll would be held within six months cast doubt on the whole process of democratic reform in Algeria.

Benjedid had earlier said the elections would take place during the first three months of 1991.

"If the president does not keep his promise, how can we not fear for the future of the nation? If the president has lost the trust of his people what is the justification for him remaining?" Madani said.

"If the elections can be postponed, they can also be cancelled."

But Madani, whose party swept to victory in local polls last June, said it was not clear whether Benjedid meant six months from last Wednesday or from his decision last July to hold early elections.

The National Assembly was elected for a five-year term in 1987 from nominees selected by the National Liberation Front, which has run a one-party state since independence in 1962.

Postponement of the poll could lead the country into an "adventure," Madani said. "Not accepting the will of the people will inevitably push them to violence," he said.

He rejected appeals by leaders of newly created rival fundamentalist parties to join an electoral alliance.

Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, a moderate fundamentalist based in the central city of Blida, announced last Thursday he was

creating a new party called Movement for an Islamic Society.

It would be allied with another new fundamentalist party, the Islamic Nahdha (Renaissance) movement of Sheikh Abdullah Djaballah, based in the eastern city of Constantine.

"We don't want to be alone in the field. Parties are multiplying, and the people will choose the one they want. Our faith in the people makes us not anxious," Madani said.

But he ruled out any alliance before the election. A coalition government of fundamentalist parties after the elections depended on the results, he added.

Madani urged the National Assembly to withdraw its confidence from Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, due to address parliament Saturday, for a secret visit he made last May to France, the former colonial power.

An Algerian weekly recently



Chadli Benjedid

published a transcript of Hamrouche's talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Michel Rocard and Madani said they revealed "the language of a slave to his master."

But unlike other opposition parties Madani said the FIS did not favour the idea of a transitional government between now and the elections, already ruled out by Chadli.

Madani also declined to back opposition calls for early presidential elections, not now due until 1993.

## New 'homes' for settlers mushroom in occupied lands

By Jack Redden  
Reuters

OCCUPIED WEST BANK — New Jewish apartments are rising across the occupied territories to ensure Israel never leaves, as the Palestinian revolt ends its third year.

"We hope that shortly there will be full annexation and the entire area will be annexed to Israel," said settler activist Yaakov Eshel. "Only five per cent of that land is enough to settle down another one million Jews."

Jewish settlers of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, maintain they have not only survived the Palestinian drive for independence, they have thrived.

Figures from the Council of Jewish Communities in the area show their numbers have risen from 61,265 to 91,750 in the three years. And that does not count some 150,000 in Arab Jerusalem.

Despite Israeli assurances to other countries that it is not directing Soviet immigrants to the occupied territories, existing Jewish settlers are confident the flood of a million Soviet immigrants by 1993 will inundate their areas.

"When the housing dries up in the most populated and desirable parts of the coastline, you'll find people coming out our way," said Marc Zell from the settlement of Alon Shvut.

Already the 160,000 immigrants to arrive in 1990 have nearly exhausted vacant housing. As rents have soared, poorer Israelis have been forced towards the state-subsidised living of the occupied territories.

Settlers repeat government figures that fewer than one per cent of Soviet Jews have settled in the occupied territories. Ben Greenberger, "deputy mayor" of Maale Adumim, said he thought there were only a handful in his town of 14,000 people.

But official figures ignore Arab Jerusalem, which is considered "part of Israel" and is talking about a tenth of the immigrants. They also record only who move to the occupied territories immediately, without any interval elsewhere.

As Greenberger escorted visitors around a hilltop town within sight of Jerusalem, a woman shouted at her dog in Russian. Beside their parked bus were two Russian-language posters for Kach, the extremist anti-Arab group.

"But if not, realise one thing — we didn't come here to leave."

Residents are attracted by a lifestyle they could never afford in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, Greenberger, an American-born lawyer, emphasised the indoor swimming pool and fitness centre could be a housing project in the southern U.S. sunbelt.

In the midst of a desert stone-faced apartments draped in bougainvillea nestle around green lawns apparently immune to a national water shortage.

"It's like living in Eilat but there's no ocean," said Flora Zaken, comparing it to Israel's Red Sea resort. The 34-year-old secretary has lived with her husband and two daughters in Maale Adumim for six years.

Contact with their Arab neighbours is minimal. Two Palestinians carted garbage through the streets and a gardener was praying amidst some shrubbery.

Visits to the nearby Arab village are a thing of the past.

The guns carried by settlers and their readiness to use them have intimidated Palestinians.

"Whether or not we like it, it certainly is helpful," Yisrael Medad of Shiloh told a news conference called to counter Palestinian publicity about the anniversary of the uprising.

Settlers say they want a change, although they make few proposals beyond seeking to end Palestinian stoning of their cars as they commute to work in nearby Israeli cities.

Many Israelis, although not the current government, oppose Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, fearing it will make a peace settlement impossible.

But on that subject the settlers are clear — they intend to stay and the 1.75 million Palestinians under Israeli occupation must never gain independence.

Dina Shalit of Ariel said the high standard of living enjoyed by settlers was not a political basis for keeping the land — "although I think that is not a bad reason at all."

"Instead, they talk about the 'strategic importance' of the Palestinian lands for 'protecting' Israel. Or they simply believe God gave it to them."

"We hope and pray that we can live at peace with our neighbours and to share the land," said Bobby Brown of Tekoa, a Jewish settlement on shooting-terms with a neighbouring Arab village.

"But if not, realise one thing — we didn't come here to leave."

## Libya says its PoWs in Chad being killed

NICOSIA (R) — Libya said Saturday 17 of its prisoners of war in Chad had been executed for disobeying a U.S. order to leave the country.

"Captives who refuse to obey the orders of America are being killed daily at the rate of three every hour under the sight and hearing of French troops and American military (personnel) in Chad," the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

It did not say who was carrying out the executions and there was no independent confirmation of its report.

"The number of those killed has so far reached 17," said the report from the Chadian capital N'djamena.

Rebel leader General Idriss

Deby, who has close ties to Libya, seized power in Chad Sunday.

Earlier on Saturday Libya accused the U.S. of flying hundreds of Libyan PoWs out of Chad against their will and called for a U.N. Security Council debate of the American "piracy."

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by JANA, which is received in Cyprus, said an airlift Friday was an act of aggression by Washington, which says it is evacuating PoWs at their own request because they do not want to go back to Libya.

U.S. officials declined to comment on reports 200 PoWs opposed to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi were flown to Niger on Friday on a U.S. air force C-141 transport plane.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-14

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Telecast  
15:30 Kuran  
15:40 Programme review  
15:45 Children programme  
16:00 News summary  
16:10 Local programme  
16:50 Programme review  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Arabic series  
21:30 Programme review  
21:45 Local programme  
22:00 News summary in Arabic

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 La Lounnas  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Classical music  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
19:45 Variety programme  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Open House  
21:10 Doc. "Great Journeys"  
21:30 News in English  
22:30 The Magistrate

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:57 Sunrise (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:23 Dhuhr  
14:13 Asr  
16:37 Maghrib  
17:59 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 87754

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63746

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 61740

De la Salle Church Tel. 66157

Terranova Church Tel. 62290

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541

Anglican Church Tel. 62530, Tel. 62543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 77131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77131

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 77151

Armenian International Church Tel. 62326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 61246

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 61517 and 65493

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

A drop in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at different altitudes. Possible scattered showers are expected and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba,

winds will be southeasterly moderate becoming southerly moderate and sea will be wavy.

AMMAN: Min. max. 12/20

Aqaba: 15/25

Devers: 15/25

Jordan Valley: 14/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

#### USEFUL NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Taseer Saadi 77736  
Dr. Awad Hawwaden 77745  
Dr. Youssef Abdul Rahim 77747  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem 77748  
Firas pharmacy 77749  
Fardous pharmacy 77750  
Al Aqaba pharmacy 77751  
Narmukh pharmacy 77752  
Al Salam pharmacy 77753  
Yacoub pharmacy 77754  
Sbmekani pharmacy 77755

DRID:  
Dr. Mahmoud Khalil 77756  
Al Sharaa pharmacy 77757

ZARQA:  
Dr. Zaid Hawwaden 77758  
Khalil pharmacy 77759

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 63711

Civil Defence Department 66111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 63041

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 62111, 63777

Fire Brigade 89128

St. Mary Bank 84302

Highway Police 80630

Traffic Police 60131

Public Security Department 60131

Price Complaints 66176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 807467

Arman Municipality Complaints 76711

Telephone Information Director, assistant 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Report 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 77311

Radio Jordan 77411

Water Authority 66010

Jordan Electricity Authority 81515

Electric Power Company 63631





**QASEM, MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLD TALKS:** — Mali's Foreign Minister Qassem Traoré Saturday paid a brief visit to Jordan and held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi on developments in the Middle East and efforts to solve the Gulf crisis peacefully. The two ministers also discussed bilateral cooperation and issues of common interest. Traoré told reporters before

leaving that his talks with Qasbi had covered most issues in the region and expressed hope that the Gulf issue as well as other problems can be solved within the framework of cooperation among Muslim nations. Traoré welcomed Iraq's decision to free all foreign nationals, describing it as a good step leading towards a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

## Brotherhood to give final answer on joining Cabinet

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — After almost three weeks of low-key negotiations, the government expects the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood to give, by Tuesday, its final answer on the movement's participation in the Cabinet, the leader of the Brotherhood said Saturday.

Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifeh, the spiritual leader of the group, said he had planned to meet with Prime Minister Mudar Badran by Tuesday to announce the Islamic movement's final decision on taking portfolios in a possible Cabinet reshuffle.

Parliamentary sources said the Brotherhood had presented a list of 12 demands to the government as a precondition for joining the Cabinet, including the application of Islamic Sharia and specific ministerial positions.

Khalifeh said the Brotherhood had no conditions "except that we want to find ourselves in a position that would enable us to affect reform in the government."

He confirmed that there "are some differences over portfolios," but refused to disclose what posts the Brotherhood was seeking.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran refused to comment on the ongoing negotiations but parliamentary sources confirmed that Khalifeh as well as other Brotherhood members were holding talks with the premier.

"We are not interested in power for power's sake," Khalifeh told the Jordan Times.

"We want to achieve reform which requires specific conditions that would have to be met."

Independent deputies said Badran wanted to give the movement four "functional" portfolios such as the ministries of labour and housing and public works rather than policy-making posts including the ministries of information and education.

Khalifeh refused to say what answer the leadership would give to the government, but indicated that there was opposition within the movement to joining the government at this time.

He said, however, that if the Brotherhood joined the government, deputies who are allied with the movement would also be given ministerial

posts. Khalifeh said that he had asked for a post for Christian Deputy Fawzi Tuaimch, who is a member of the Parliamentary Unity Coalition which propelled Brotherhood candidate Abdul Latif Arabiyat into the House speaker's post.

In an interview published this week, Arabiyat confirmed that the Brotherhood "will join a new government as long as there was agreement on the principles of action."

"I think, in principle, there will be participation as long as there is an agreement on reform and our participation will be for the sake of reform and nothing else," Arabiyat told Al-Dustour Arabic daily.

National Bloc deputies said a Brotherhood delegation visited Cairo last week for "consultations" with the leadership of Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. One deputy expressed dismay over what he described as "lack of independence of the movement," hinting that the Brotherhood in Jordan was consulting its Egyptian counterpart over joining the government.

Khalifeh confirmed that a delegation had visited Cairo, but denied that the group was consulting on government affairs.

"They (the delegation) were there to discuss social and health matters, including the election of Deputy Ali Hawamdeh as secretary-general of the (Islamic) medical association," Khalifeh said. "There are no contacts concerning matters of government."

Independent and leftist deputies say that the Brotherhood put "tough conditions" for their participation, reflecting divisions within the movement over participation in Badran's government.

They said that while factions in the movement were in favour of participation, others preferred to remain outside so as "not to be contained" by the government.

When Badran first formed his government he tried to include members of the Brotherhood, the largest single bloc in Parliament, but negotiations had failed. Momentum to include members of the movement in the Cabinet increased when Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Arabiyat won the race for speakership of the House.



Her Majesty Queen Noor lays the foundation stone for the second phase of construction at Al Mashara Youth Club (above). Below, Queen Noor inspects one of the kindergartens in the northern Jordan Valley region (Petra photos)



## Queen Noor visits northern Jordan Valley

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday made an inspection tour of the northern part of the Jordan Valley.

With a population of around 50,000 people, the majority of whom are farmers, the region is well known for its arable land. It provides the Kingdom with most of its needs for agricultural products and is also the main source for production of fruits and vegetables for export, which enhances the national income.

Like other areas in the Kingdom, the region is in need of a number of services and facilities. That is why the area was included in the Queen's programme of inspection visits which aim at providing the inhabitants with the help and assistance needed to overcome their economic difficulties and improve their living standards.

Queen Noor visited the region, inspected the services available and was briefed on the needs of its people. She was accompanied on the visit by the ministers of social development, health and education.

The Queen first visited the Mu'ath Bin Jabal Hospital, which has a capacity of 30 beds, but, according to its director, is in need of specialists in dermatology and ophthalmology, qualified pediatric nurses, incubators, ultrasound machine, upgrading the equipment of one of the three ambulances, a dialysis machine as well as maintenance by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) of the doctors' dormitory.

Upon the Queen's directives, the Ministry of Health promised to meet most of the hospital's needs and requests. The hospital's director thanked the Queen for her visit and her efforts to upgrade the region's infrastructure services, especially in the health sector.

The Queen and the accompanying party then proceeded to the North Shuneh Charitable Society where they were received by its president who pointed out the needs of his establishment, which include financial support as well as items such as furniture for its kindergarten, children's books and indoor and outdoor equipment for games.

The Queen donated educational toys, tables and chairs for the

kindergarten as well as other items requested by the society, and the minister of social development promptly included the society's financial needs in his ministry's budget for the year 1991.

At the Zmaliyeh Park, which is a project of the Ministry of Education and a winner of the ministry's contest for model parks, Queen Noor officially opened the park, toured its facilities and distributed awards to the winner schools.

Later, at Al Mashara Youth Club the Queen laid the foundation stone for the second phase of its construction, which, according to its director, was temporarily halted for lack of financial support until it was promised to be secured upon the Queen's directives by the Ministry of Youth. The Jordanian Cement Industry Company and the Ceramic Industries Company followed suit, and donated 10 tonnes of cement and ceramic tiles as well as sanitary equipment, respectively.

In Wadi Al-Yabes, five kilometres south of Al-Mashara, Queen Noor visited the Wadi Al-Yabes Charitable Ladies Society and the Cooperative Productive Women's Society, where she was briefed by their presidents on the societies' activities and requirements. Here the Queen also donated furniture and educational toys for the kindergarten. She instructed the Noor Al-Husseini Foundation to conduct a survey of what it can offer to the charitable societies in North Shuneh to help introduce productive skills that increase the family's income.

During the inspection tour, Queen Noor also visited the Waqqas Center for the Handicapped as well as a number of agricultural units where the secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority briefed her on agriculture in the region and the difficulties this vital sector is facing.

JVA already began undertaking a series of measures to deal with the irrigation problem; the measures include the construction of large dams (three have already been completed), and the construction of smaller dams on the channels that drain in the Jordan Valley as well as the drilling of ground water in side valleys, for supporting water resources to the King Abdullah Canal.

The authority is also currently executing a new irrigation system

with pressurised pipes to increase the efficiency of irrigation by 30 per cent over the old system using canals. In addition, JVA will work on maintaining the King Abdullah Canal to increase its efficiency, and will give priority of water irrigation to lands cultivated with grains, considering the importance of this commodity, and since it does not require as much water as other crops.

The Ministry of Agriculture promised to try to help the farmers to acquire agricultural products such as seeds and pesticides at more affordable prices. The minister said that he would try to intervene to control the prices and would encourage farmers' unions to import these products and sell them to farmers at more reasonable prices. However, he maintained that prices of such commodities were high due to the devaluation of the dinar in relation to other currencies, and due to their high prices in the countries of origin. The difficulty of ships to enter Aqaba Port also affected the prices of goods.

The repercussions of the Gulf crisis severely affected the agricultural sector in Jordan where the farmers lost a major market for their exports in the Gulf countries. The ministry is to coordinate with the Jordanian Company for Marketing and Manufacturing Agricultural Products, to try to absorb the surplus of tomatoes and use it for manufacturing purposes (the surplus quantity reached 70,000 tonnes this year only). The private sector is also requested to find new alternative markets, especially in Europe.

Regarding the citizens' requests that the villages of Sakbna, Hamidiyah, and Northern Kreimah Housing be provided with electricity, the Jordan Electricity Authority said it was awaiting the government's instructions on assigning priority for financing the installation of electricity in the villages, considering the great amounts of money involved.

As a welcome gesture, the Civil Consumer's Corporation donated 50 boxes of various commodities to the villages in the region.

Queen Noor was received in North Shuneh by the Irbid governor, the district's representative in Parliament, the district officer of North Shuneh, its mayor and chief of police as well as other government officials.

## Chamber of Commerce board of directors chairman elected

By Ziyad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The newly elected Board of Directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce held its first meeting in Amman Saturday and elected Mohammad Asfour as board chairman for a second term.

The board also elected Haidar Murad as deputy president, Mohammad Al Muhaseb as secretary general and Ismail Tarsish as treasurer.

Following his election, Asfour expressed hope that the board members would shoulder their full responsibility to serve the national economy. "The board's election comes at a crucial moment which requires from each of its members to double efforts and contribute towards boosting the national economy by increasing trade activities with other countries," Asfour said in his statement.

"The present economic crisis in Jordan was aggravated largely because of the consequences of the Gulf crisis and its impact on Jordan, which impeded the Kingdom's implementation of the economic restructuring program," Asfour said.

"Jordan can by no means restore its economic stability and



adjust the balance of payments without increasing the volume of exports and without opening new markets to compensate for the loss of the country's traditional markets in the Gulf countries," Asfour said.

The Chamber of Commerce, he stressed, believes that people should be encouraged to reduce spending, a step that is being taken by the government, and that the government should allow the importation of various commodities and food supplies through the private sector so as to lessen the financial burden shouldered now by the Ministry of Supply.

Referring to the question of unemployment, Asfour said that a solution for this problem should involve the cooperation of various economic sectors, including the "business" sector.

Asfour received 1,743 votes in last Monday's election for the 12-member board of directors. A total of 28 candidates ran for the 12-seat board. They were grouped into three different blocs and five independent candidates.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Congressman arrives

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Wayne Owens of Salt Lake City is due in Amman Sunday on a two-day visit to Jordan. Owens is to assess regional problems in light of the Gulf crisis.

#### Ministry to give saplings free of charge

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Agriculture Minister Suleiman Arabiyat announced Saturday that forest tree saplings produced by ministry nurseries would be distributed free of charge to individuals and institutions to be planted during the present rainy season. Millions of saplings produced by the nurseries will be distributed through the ministry's various departments around the Kingdom.

#### Coupon holders urged to use them before Dec. 22

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Ministry of Supply Saturday urged members of the public who hold coupons for milk, rice and sugar to buy their needs of these commodities before Dec. 22. It said that beyond that date the coupons would become worthless and the beneficiaries, would have to wait for new types of coupons to be issued early next year.

#### Marriott opens office at QAIA

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Amman Marriott Hotel has opened an office at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) to provide assistance to hotel guests. Two of the hotel's staff members have been assigned to the job.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.

### FILMS

- ★ Film Long film festival: silent film entitled "Das Testament des Dr. Mabius" (1933 production) at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Feature film entitled "Field of Dreams" at the American Centre — 6:30 p.m.

### AQABA CULTURAL WEEK

- Exhibition entitled "Goethe-Forum" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "Alfa — an Islamic City on the China Sea" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre.

## Water, land and road top House agenda today

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Lower House of Parliament is due to hold a session Sunday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members to discuss a range of questions and replies by ministers to queries raised by House members.

A statement here Saturday said that the agenda included a reply by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al-Rawabdeh to a question about the construction of a highway between Jewdah and Yadoudeh south of Amman.

The House will discuss the

question of water in Jordan and a draft law on state-owned land in response to queries by 10 deputies.

The items on the agenda include the orphan fund draft law and the Armed Forces martyrs fund.

Several deputies had requested to take the floor in last week's session will be allowed to address the session, the statement said. These include Husni Shiyat, Mohammad Dardour, Faouzi Tuaimch, Ahmad Innab, Ahmad Kafawin, Daoud Kojak, Kamel Omari and Hisham Al Sharari.

Meanwhile the House's Financial Committee Saturday held a

session during which discussion centred on the 1991 fiscal budget which was presented to the House by Finance Minister Basil Jarrah.

Following the meeting, the committee's Chairman Abdullah Ensour said that the committee had recommended reducing spending in a number of areas, and noted that committee members would hold a session Sunday to discuss the health situation in the Kingdom in the presence of Health Minister Mohammad Adnab Al Zaben.

Saturday's committee session was attended by Jarrah and the director of the Budget Department.

## CBJ confirms receiving Japanese, German funds

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has recently received a grant of \$120 million from the German government and nearly \$55 million from the Japanese government as a long-term soft loan in implementation of agreements signed here in the past month, CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi announced Saturday.

He said that the funds would be used to support the 1991 fiscal budget and to cover the purchase of specified commodities for the country.

The 1991 fiscal budget has a deficit of JD 216.7 million and the government hopes that aid from friendly nations will help cover this amount, said Nabulsi.

The government also presented to the Parliament a JD 120 million emergency budget which, it said, would be needed to cover the cost of caring for expatriates returning from the Gulf and other urgent matters.

In his announcement Nabulsi said that the funds received by the CBJ were part of financial aid promised to Jordan which carried most of the brunt as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Italy is giving \$26.5 million, Canada has allocated \$22.8 million, France has granted \$20 million, the Netherlands is offering

\$18 million and Taiwan \$20 million.

Speaking in a television interview earlier this week, Nabulsi said that Jordan was in a very comfortable situation as far as its foreign currency reserves were concerned and there was no intention to devalue the dinar.

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August, the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves have only decreased by \$150 million and now they stand at \$560 million, Nabulsi told Jordan Television.

"There are different means of computing the foreign currency reserves, and if we include the amounts of foreign currency available for the CBJ plus the gold reserves and Jordan's loans to other countries, the total reserves can come up to around \$1,000 million in addition to a similar sum owned by Jordanian commercial banks," Nabulsi said.

Nabulsi attributed the pressure on deposits in Jordanian dinars and in other foreign currency at the start of the Gulf crisis to withdrawals by depositors who had the desire to keep their money in cash as a precautionary measure for emergencies.

Nabulsi said that CBJ had opened the door for all citizens to unlimited, unrestricted withdraw-

als from their accounts and this policy helped reduce the desire for withdrawals.

"Soon after the outbreak of the crisis citizens withdrew about JD 120 million and \$160 million from Jordanian banks, but all these deposits had been returned since then," he said.

The CBJ plans to issue two types of treasury bonds in U.S. dollars with interest rates equivalent to the London interbank offered rates (Libor), which is normal bank interest rates plus one eighth per cent extra on one type and one quarter per cent extra on the other.

The bonds will have a maturity period of five years, but the first type could be redeemed at the CBJ two years after being issued while the other type can only be redeemed after five years.

Nabulsi said that Israel had several times tried to throw the Jordanian money market into chaos by circulating counterfeit money, but the CBJ, in cooperation with the concerned authorities, had taken proper measures to foil such attempts.

A new draft law on money changes has been referred to the Council of Ministers and Parliament which have the right to introduce the necessary amendments, Nabulsi said.

## Road to be closed for construction works

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has decided to close the present road which links Amman with Irbid in the north for eighteen months because it said that the road has become unsafe to travel on due to intensive traffic, and lack of side roads that would divert the traffic from areas under construction.

"The ministry's teams and contractors have been carrying out construction work on a new road from Amman to Irbid through Jerash for some time, and the first phase of the project has just been completed, but work is still continuing on the second phase of the road, making travel hazardous," the ministry explained in a statement carried by the Jordan

News Agency, Petra.

The statement, issued by Rashdan Al Rashdan, the ministry's secretary general, said that the first phase of the three-stage project, a 24-kilometre stretch, was completed 500 days behind schedule due to financial and administrative problems encountered by the contractors.

"The delay in work on the first phase prompted the ministry to set up a committee, representing the bank which is financing the project, the contractors and the ministry, to take direct supervision of the project," the statement said.

It said that a diversion road was to be used by traffic between Amman and Irbid until the whole

project has been completed, probably in the second half of 1992.

The diversion road links Irbid with Rahab, Balama, Al Hashemiyeh, Zarqa and Amman, the statement said.

According to Rashdan, the diversion road is 104 kilometres long, exceeding by 15 kilometres the present Amman-Irbid road. He said that road signs to direct traffic and facilitate travel had been installed along the whole diversion road.

When completed, Rashdan said, the new Amman-Irbid road will be only 57.5 kilometres long. The total cost of construction is estimated at JD 28.5 million.



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## Dictates of history

ON THE eve of the third anniversary of the Palestinian intifada, the U.S. and Israel joined hands for the umpteenth time to cast a negative vote against the five resolutions on the Palestinian question adopted Friday by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Washington and Tel Aviv were once again voting against U.N. resolutions that purport to convene an international conference on the Middle East, the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with previous resolutions. But that is not all. For the past few weeks Washington has been filibustering in the Security Council with a view to delaying the adoption of a resolution that aims to hold an international peace conference on the Palestinian issue as well as extending some international protection to the Palestinian people under occupation. Meanwhile the Palestinian people's steadfastness against Israeli occupation remains firm. As the Palestinian intifada today enters its fourth year with renewed vigour and determination irrespective of its toll. If there is a message in the intifada against Israeli occupation and oppression it is the Palestinians' determination to persevere till they gain their freedom and independence. The international community has already extended recognition of and support for the Palestinian people by adopting a series of resolutions on the issue. What is preventing these resolutions from being implemented is clearly the position of Washington and Tel Aviv. The U.S. was, and remains to be, the missing link in what is otherwise unanimous world support for the yearnings and aspirations of the Palestinian people. At a time when the White House religiously insists on the implementation of the twelve resolutions on Iraq adopted by the Security Council in the course of the last few months, Washington maintains its clear double standards when it comes to the Middle East conflicts by blocking the implementation of the resolutions adopted equally by the Security Council and the General Assembly in the last five decades. No wonder the White House does not accept any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East conflicts. Washington wants and seeks different standards and principles to apply on the Arab-Israeli conflicts from those that it orchestrated for the Kuwaiti situation.

But the people of Palestine and all honourable Arabs everywhere will never accept this hypocrisy and duplicity. This Sunday the intifada celebrates and commemorates its third anniversary as a clear signal to Washington and Tel Aviv in particular that the torch of freedom in the occupied Palestinian lands will never be extinguished. If anything, the intifada may escalate, and it will never recede in stamina and determination. The Palestinian people have already declared that they have vowed and taken a solemn oath never to surrender or submit to oppression and occupation even if it takes scores of years of struggle. Tel Aviv and Washington would save themselves and the world much agony and suffering if they would only heed the dictates of history.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said Saturday the United Nations General Assembly has issued five resolutions calling for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the solution of the refugee problem in implementation of the assembly's resolution of 1948. In all these resolutions only Israel and the United States cast the negative vote among the United Nations members, said the paper. This American-Israeli strategy which has characterised Washington's policies in the past still persists, said America's enemy towards the Arab nation in general and the Palestinians in particular remains unchanged, the paper pointed out. Furthermore, the United States has just repeated that it will not make a linkage between the Middle East problem and the Gulf crisis in a bid to do service to Israel by keeping the Palestine problem outstanding and untouched, so that no international pressure can be imposed on the Jewish state to end its occupation of Arab lands, the paper pointed out. By continuing to protect and support Israel's aggression on the Arabs, said the paper, the United States is trying to humiliate the Arab nation; and by ignoring the Palestinian people, Washington is disregarding their legitimate rights, the paper added. It said that the United States should realise that Iraq's Aug. 2 take over of Kuwait was the beginning of the change of the whole situation in the Middle East area.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on the concerned water authorities to adopt two strategies: one to be applied in the case of heavy rainfall this season, and the other to be implemented if very little rain fell in the coming three months. Salah Abdul Samad says when presented to the public, these two strategies are most likely to be supported because it would make people realise the seriousness of the situation. There is need for the water authorities to embark on candid policies and to start a nation-wide campaign to spread awareness concerning the need to economise in the use of water, the writer says. He reminds his readers of the prime minister's statement at the last parliament session when he said that he was sounding the alarm about the water situation. The water authorities and the members of the public will not only be heeding Badran's warning and complying to government orders, the writer pointed out, but they will rather be adjusting to the requirements of the present and future water situations and taking proper steps to deal with any eventuality. Citizens should not despair or panic since Almighty God will always bless them with His mercy, but he says, at the same time Jordanians must undertake proper measures in the face of any situation.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# When expatriates return home

THE movement of Arab labourers within the Arab World is almost the only economic integration factor in operation. Inter-Arab trade has constituted no more than six per cent of the total Arab trade while 94 per cent of Arab imports and exports came from or went to the outside world. The movement of Arab capital and investments in other Arab countries has been extremely limited and almost confined to Arab development funds which extended loans, and scarcely made direct investments. Labour was and still is the only productive commodity to cross over borders within the Arab World.

In general, one can recognise two groups of Arab countries. The first group includes the oil rich countries, such as Iraq, Libya, and all Arab Gulf states. They import labour. The second group includes other, more populated and less wealthy countries, such as Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Sudan, Tunis and to a certain extent Syria and Lebanon. These export labour.

Jordan is unique in that it is the only country that imports and exports labour at the same time and at a very large scale relative to the size of its manpower resources and labour market. Over two-fifths of the Jordanian labour force is working abroad, while at least one quarter of those working in Jordan are non-

Jordanians, mainly Egyptian and Asian labourers. Extensive expatriation has far-reaching and social consequences. But the most salient effects are felt in the labour market and the balance of payments, where remittances contribute to foreign currency reserves.

In Jordan's case, one can imagine what kind of an unemployment level we would have if it were not for the 330,000 Jordanians working abroad, including 280,000 in Arab Gulf states. Of the latter figure over 80,000 had until recently been working in Kuwait.

The remittances from the expatriates at one time were more important than exports in terms of proceeds in foreign exchange. But not so in recent years, because exports expanded quickly while remittances stagnated or declined as a result of the economic recession in the economies of the Gulf states following the drop in oil prices in 1982 and in the ensuing years.

The building up of a well-educated and trained labour force to be dispatched for working abroad is a very costly operation. The Gulf states used to recruit the best of Jordan's qualified staff and skilled labour with extensive experience. This contributed to a shortage in trained manpower in Jordan leading our development efforts to suffer during the latter years of the seventies and earlier

years of the eighties.

A study conducted at the Ministry of Labour revealed that annual remittances received by Jordan from expatriates were not in excess of 9 per cent of the cost of their education and training. Therefore, HRH Crown Prince Hassan called for an Arab and international financial fund to compensate the countries exporting the labour force, because these countries pay the costs of education, training and retirement for a labour force that works elsewhere while the importing countries take the expatriates in their youth when they are at their productive peak.

Jordan is now facing a big economic problem due to its inability to absorb the returnees from Kuwait who, with their families, make some quarter of a million people. Assuming that the cost of absorbing one returnee is \$20,000 Jordan would need \$5 billion to absorb the thousands who have come back from Kuwait — a staggering amount that exceeds the total gross national product. The emergency takes place at a time when Jordan continues to suffer from severe economic problems and delay in receiving financial and economic aid promised by industrialised countries in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

This makes it all the more difficult for Jordan and its people to put our house back in order, and on a steady course again.

## Germany is united now but the challenge lies in making it work

By Mark Fritz

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Two governments made German unity possible this year, but the United Nation's newly elected leadership faces perhaps an even more daunting task: Making it work.

In the rush to unify, East and West Germany left some of the most pressing questions for the government that would replace them, including:

— How to use, dispose of, analyse or make public the secret files on 6 million people kept by East Germany's former secret police.

— How to find and whether to prosecute Communist Party functionaries and secret police agents alleged to have committed crimes ranging from corruption to murder.

— How to sift through the morass of 1 million claims on Eastern German property made by Western Germans who used to live in the region.

— Whether to move the seat of government to Berlin, the new capital, or leave it in Bonn, the

old one.

The most immediate concern, however, will be dealing with the mounting costs of unification and the cash drain that former East Germany has become.

A Day after Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats were elected to lead the united nation, officials of Germany's central bank on Monday made comments that were seen as early warning signs that the costs of unification could hurt the strong German economy.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl, perhaps the most powerful man in Germany behind Kohl, said in a magazine interview that the government plans to borrow too much money to rebuild former East Germany.

Poehl, whose comments to Stern Magazine were confirmed by the bank's press department, said "far-reaching and drastic" government spending cuts were needed to offset the borrowing.

The government plans to borrow up to 150 billion marks (\$100 billion) in 1991.

Johann Wilhelm Gaddum, a director of the bank, also criticised the level of borrowing.

Gaddum, the Bundesbank director responsible for Eastern Germany, said Monday that officials don't understand repeated warnings about the dangers of high government borrowing.

"When I look at the planned growth rates of the public budgets for 1991, I have doubts whether the message has been understood," the director said in an interview on Germany's ARD television.

Eastern Germany's teetering economy is expected to crash and burn in the first three months of next year.

East Germany was a principal exporter of industrial goods to other East Bloc nations, and many of those contracts expire in January.

Economists say many may not be renewed by struggling nations who may find it cheaper to use their nonconvertible currency to buy goods from Hungary, for example, rather than Germany.

Likewise, many enterprises are operating only on credit that will run out in the first quarter of next year.

Joblessness "is officially only about 573,000, about 6.1 of the

workforce. But economists say up to 1 million people now are carrying around layoff notices that take effect in January or March.

They say eastern region joblessness next year may eventually reach 4 million, roughly half of the workforce in the former nation.

The new nation also needs to mesh two sharply different school systems, apply Western environmental safeguards to one of the world's most polluted regions, and repair a communications and transportation system considered crucial to luring new investment into the East.

The questions already are beginning to create dissent among the politicians likely to comprise Kohl's new government.

The centrist Free Democrats, the junior partner in Kohl's old government, demanded Monday that Eastern German companies pay lower taxes than their Western counterparts.

Kohl has previously said he opposes such a move, but Monday he refused to talk about it to reporters. Kohl needs the Free Democrats to get a majority in parliament.

## 'There used to be' a homeland, but...

By Jack Redden

Reuter

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The shattered remains of a sign for Charlie West perfume hang above a street in the centre of Ramallah, a legacy of the fashionable lifestyle that died with the Israeli occupation.

"There used to be six hotels in Ramallah — one first class and the rest second," said Salim Tamari, a sociologist at the town's Bir Zeit University.

"Now you can't stay in Ramallah unless you know someone. You can't eat in Ramallah except for falafel and hummus street vendors," he said. "After dark it becomes a ghost town."

Ramallah's role as a summer resort for the Arab World came to an abrupt end when Israel captured the town 15 kilometres north of Jerusalem during the 1967 Middle East war.

The decline of a town noted for its comfortable Christian and Muslim middle class

accelerated when the intifada against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip — erupted three years ago.

Emigration has increased, with every middle class family pointing to lists of relatives abroad. A Ramallah club in the United States sends aid to the town of 25,000 people.

"The absence of normality is the defining factor of middle class life," said Tamari, whose university was closed by the army at the start of the revolt. "It's becoming normal in a deadly way."

On calm days shops are padlocked by 1 p.m. as part of the revolt. Other days they never open because of strikes called by underground Palestinian leaders or an army curfew.

Restrictions on schools have hit a middle class that places its hopes in education. Elementary and secondary schools were closed through much of the revolt and Ramallah's university, although operating in makeshift facilities with tacit Israeli approval, remains officially closed.

But the most oppressive part for people who are respected members of their own communities is what they regard as daily humiliations and fear caused by Israel's 23-year military rule.

"They are treating us like 'guests' — unwanted guests," said Doctor Shawqi Harb, a heart surgeon at Ramallah Hospital. "The way the Israelis are treating us is a method of slow erosion of the population."

Israeli settlements have almost encircled the town. The area of the West Bank annexed by Israel in its effort to extend Jerusalem its capital stretches almost to the edge of Ramallah.

Harb describes a lifestyle in which people are afraid to venture further than a neighbour's house at night. Unexplained gunfire is routine.

"It has always been difficult in the evenings since 1967. But since the intifada people are confined most of the time to their homes," he said.

"Doctors have permits to go around even during curfew hours but those often don't work — it depends on the mood of the soldier on the checkpoint," the 52-year-old doctor said. If he wants to leave Israel to attend medical meetings abroad, he has to apply for permission weeks in advance.

Israeli soldiers seeking local cover often commandeered private cars — the roomy Mercedes and Volvos of wealthier Arabs are favoured. Local citizens now opt for smaller, two-door cars, soldiers need four-door models from which to leap into action.

"Several times I have been stopped by [Israeli] settlers, even inside Ramallah," the silver-haired surgeon said. "They are armed and will just stand in the middle of the road. You don't know if they will shoot."

Harb, who trained at U.S. universities, said that early in the revolt 90 per cent of his patients had been wounded in clashes with the army. Even now that violence has subsided the figure is 25 per cent.

His two oldest sons are at university in the United States, but he worries each time his 14-year-old son walks the turbulent streets to school that he might be swept up in the periodic mass arrests.

Members of the town's dwindling middle class say they now spend more time with their families and neighbours. Video sales have boomed and tutors have been hired to give private lessons during the frequent school closures.

"People are getting used to the intifada and they are adjusting," Usama Khalaf said in his pizza restaurant that closed on Dec. 9, 1987 — the first day of the uprising.

Now, as the third anniversary of the revolt approaches, Khalaf and his brothers have reopened on Ramallah's main street — scene of tyre burnings, molotov cocktails and countless clashes with the army.

An Italian restaurant evokes memories of Ramallah's glory days but the operation of "angels" is determined by the new realities. The brothers hope to sell takeaway pizzas after the daily afternoon strike closes the shops.

"They are saying this is our destiny, our way of life, so we have to change our lives," said Khalaf. "Life will never be the way it was before."

against them or given prompt trials, the Italian group said.

"Administrative detention has been used by Israeli authorities to keep prisoners in jail because of their opinions," the report said. "They are detained only for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression and association."

It asked Israel to re-examine the system of "administrative detention" and free those held under it.

Amnesty also said that thousands of Palestinians had been subjected to torture at the hands of Israeli soldiers or in detention centres.

The methods included burning

with cigarettes, depriving people of sleep, covering their heads with hoods and striking them, the report said.

"Amnesty International is seriously worried about the treatment of Palestinians during detention and in particular methods of interrogation used," it cited the case of Ramallah, 11, of the Buraj camp in Gaza. The Italian said the boy was arrested 25 following the death of an Israeli soldier in the camp.

A lawyer who was visit him on Oct. 20 had been beaten chest and head.

## Gorby grappling with reform

By Ron Popeski

Reuter

MOSCOW — President Mikhail Gorbachev, at a crossroads with his reforms, appears to be retreating to conservative positions and relying on the pillars of Soviet society — the army, the Communist Party and the workers.

In speeches leading up to decisions this week on tackling food shortages and overhauling state institutions yet again, Gorbachev appears to have ended five years of deftly walking a tightrope between radicals and conservatives.

The addresses were to cultural workers and leaders of the Moscow Communist Party. But he was clearly looking over his shoulder at other groups wielding considerable more influence — notably the restless army and workers disaffected with failure to improve their poor living standards.

"We need to strengthen the institutions on which our society is based, including a democratic one," he told Moscow communists. "I mean the army and the security forces. This must be done and is being done now."

Gorbachev's popularity has plunged further in recent weeks as Soviet citizens line up in queues or deal with speculators to feed their families and Western donors send in planes and trucks full of food to tide the country over the winter.

Calls from prominent conservatives for Gorbachev to take action or resign and deep mistrust within the five million-strong armed forces may have been behind his decisive shift.

He appeared to drive home his



point on Sunday, in the first of a promised series of cabinet reshuffles, by replacing Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin with a hard-line communist official, Boris Pugo.

He also appointed the former commander of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, Boris Gromov, as first deputy interior minister.

After months of insisting that the market economy was the only way out of the country's crisis, Gorbachev came out firmly against widespread introduction of private property — a key element in attracting foreign investment.

Widespread private property, he said, violated the traditions of Soviet rural society and should be confined to areas in which "cooperatives and the state sector do not work as they should."

Numerous schemes to check the growth of the black market have culminated in a presidential decree authorising "workers bri-

gades" to curb diversion of food supplies and arrest and charge violators. The brigades, to be elected at factories, are widely seen as a means of increasing communist influence.

Gorbachev now repeatedly insists that the Soviet Union "cannot be divided" after nearly a year of cajoling its republics by adopting legislation on secession and negotiating a new treaty for a "renewed federation."

Servicemen deemed to be under threat in any of the republics where the army is viewed with contempt or hostility — particularly in the separatist Baltic region — are now authorised to open fire.

Gorbachev also made clear that despite the pre-eminence of state rather than Communist Party institutions after five years of perestroika, the party was to be his main vehicle of implementing change.

Betraying socialism, he said,

was tantamount to betraying his two grandfathers, who were both jailed under dictator Josef Stalin. And under no circumstances was he about to give up his post of party general secretary.

"Now the Communist Party occupies the ruling position and we should use it to push the country towards new horizons within the framework of socialist choice," he told the Moscow party.

But his bid to press ahead with a more conservative approach could run aground on nationalities policy.

The debate on the future shape of the country has pitted him against determined separatists in the Baltic and Transcaucasia and populist leaders such as Russia's Boris Yeltsin refusing central economic control.

Critics say his long insistence on maintaining the unity of the Soviet Union demonstrated a clear misunderstanding of national sentiment as communists gave way to nationalist governments in republic after republic.

"You get the impression that 100 peoples and 15 republics have landed out of space yesterday or last week," he told the cultural workers.

He said conclusion of the "union treaty" redefining the relationship between the Kremlin and the republics on his terms was the "last ditch" beyond which lay disintegration.

Republican leaders outlining their stand in a Sunday newspaper survey were virtually all opposed to the treaty in its present form — even in conservative areas such as Uzbekistan and Kirghizia.

territory by force, should rally

ranks to counter what they see as an extension of the North-South conflict, pitting the developed countries against the developing nations in global economy and politics.

Many non-aligned countries have lamented the absence of a concrete Third World move through the Non-Aligned Movement to resolve the Gulf crisis. Yugoslavia is the current chairman of the movement, and on several occasions during his visit here last month Ortega implicitly criticised Belgrade for what he described as its lukewarm approach to Gulf mediation efforts.

"For all practical purposes, what Ortega is trying to do represents the missing Third World effort," said an Asian diplomat here. "He is supported by several major non-aligned countries in his endeavours," he added.

## Amnesty

(Continued from page 1)

The report also charged that more than 12,000 Palestinians had been held in "administrative detention" since the start of the uprising.

Those held under the system are often not informed of charges

## OPEC

(Continued from page 1)

month ago, at around 23.3 million bpd.

One OPEC delegate said that if peace was achieved in the Gulf prices would settle below the secretariat's forecasts as Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies were restored. "But if there is destruction prices will go to unpredictable levels," he added.

The most unlikely scenario in the crisis, given the U.N.'s Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to get out of Kuwait or face possible war, is a protracted stalemate.

This would see prices settling in the lower end of the \$23 to \$27 range, he said.

The study suggests there is no shortage of oil products. Even for Asian markets hit by the loss of supplies from Kuwait's refining system, products seem fairly readily available.

OPEC's ministerial market monitoring committee meets on Tuesday and the winter conference gets formally under way on Wednesday. OPEC sources say it is unlikely to last more than a couple of days.

## Envoy

(Continued from page 1)



# He lives in airplanes too

ROME — He bears a striking resemblance to his older, more famous brother, Fathi Arafat has the same lips, the same eyes, even the same half-shaved chin as Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian parliament in exile, and PLO delegate to the World Health Organisation, Fathi Arafat is also involved in politics. But he is first and foremost a doctor, he says, and as such he is frightened and appalled by the prospect of more fighting in the Middle East.

"As a physician I have seen many wars, and many deaths and injuries caused by them," said Dr. Arafat. "I was in the siege of Lebanon for three months, and I saw some terrible things. That's why I have come here to Rome, to convince people that we must protect the world from nuclear

war and weapons of mass destruction."

As president of the Palestinian branch of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Dr. Arafat took part in recent meetings in Italy that focused on the Gulf crisis. He was also a member of an IPPNW delegation that visited the Iraqi and U.S. embassies in Rome to urge the two countries not to use chemical, biological or nuclear weapons in the conflict. In the three days of talks, this 57-year-old doctor shared the podium with Israeli physician Hillel Shanker, a man who is his enemy but who is also his colleague.

"Any kind of war, whether atomic or not, would be a disaster for the Gulf, for the whole of the Middle East and for the entire world," said Dr.

Arafat. "It would be a catastrophe. We already have so many problems in the area."

Born in Jerusalem, one of 10 brothers and sisters, Fathi Arafat studied medicine and graduated in 1950 from Cairo's famous Kasr El-Aini teaching hospital. He specialised as a pediatrician and worked for five years in a Kuwait hospital, but these days he no longer practices medicine. As president of the Palestine Red Crescent Organisation, Dr. Arafat represents 15,000 Palestinian doctors and is in charge of providing health care for his people, whether they are in the Israeli occupied territories or in Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia or Iraq.

"Our Organisation is responsible for the care of Palestinians everywhere," he said. "We are like the ministry

of public health in any other country, so we are responsible for primary and secondary health care, hospitals, rehabilitation... We have many difficulties. One of the main ones is coordination, since half of our people are in the occupied territories and the other half are scattered everywhere."

Another serious problem he says is the growing number of psychiatric cases among children in the occupied territories as the tension of living in a war zone takes its toll. "We are facing a very big mental health problem. Many fact-finding missions have acknowledged this and written reports on it," he said. "It is a very dangerous state of affairs not just for the Palestinians but for the whole world."

Dr. Arafat spends much of his time travelling between



Fathi Arafat

Tunis, Cairo, Athens and Geneva. "I have no home," he said as he left for the Swiss capital to attend a WHO meeting. "I live in airplanes." (WNL).

# Voice of America

By Norman Kempster

WITH HER thick Alabama drawl and halting speech, she still seems miscast as the front-line spokeswoman for President Bush's foreign policy. But as the world hovers on the brink of war, Margaret Tutwiler has become the indispensable sound "bite" on the evening news, the woman who articulates the government's intention to a nervous nation.

As the State Department's chief spokesperson, Tutwiler presides over briefings for reporters that (in theory, at least) provide a daily update on U.S. foreign policy. The briefings are also the primary forum by which Washington sends sometimes subtle signals to friend and foe alike.

To the uninitiated, the job may seem ridiculously easy. It consists mainly of reading statements, mostly prepared in advance by someone else, in response to questions from reporters. Frequently, she simply refuses to comment: "I have nothing more on that for you," Tutwiler is wont to say.

But in the high-stakes game of international diplomacy, a single misstep by Tutwiler can send a dangerously incorrect message that the government can never fully withdraw. For that reason, the post has always been a high-stress job. Tutwiler says that she found it terrifying at first.

Reporters who have watched Tutwiler since her debut in 1989 (when she candidly said, "I am not, and do not claim to be, an expert in foreign policy") agree that her performance at the daily briefing has improved markedly, though it remains somewhat ragged. Her lilting accent and her occasional mispronunciations sometimes erode her presentation.

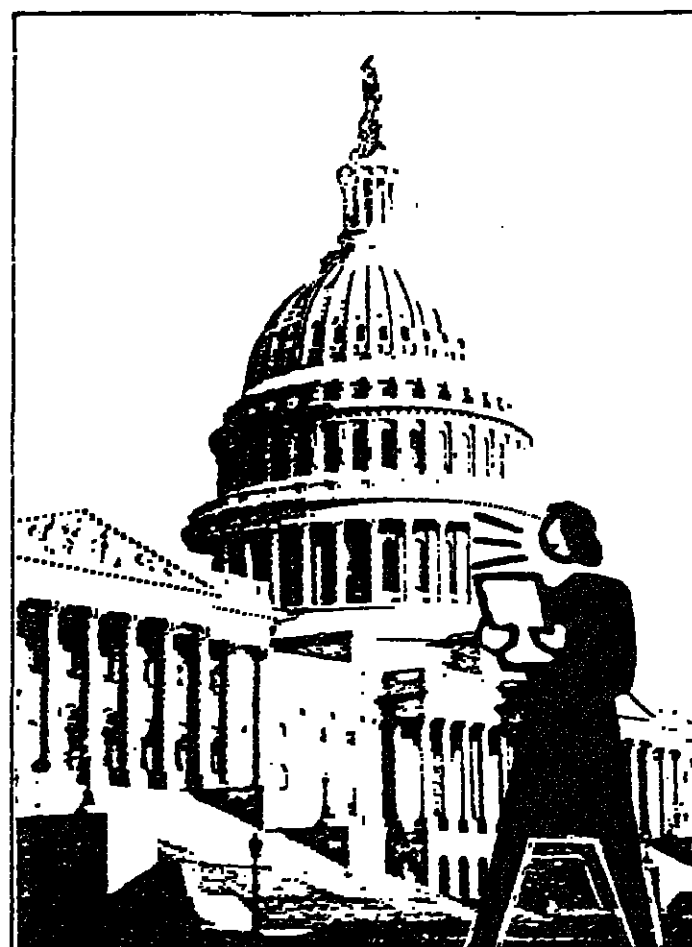
But there's no doubt that she has mastered other aspects of the job that often have eluded her predecessor, even those who were steeped in the lore of diplomacy. Most important, Tutwiler is a thoroughgoing expert on Secretary of State James A. Baker. One of the half-dozen aides who are in the secretary's all-important inner circle, Tutwiler tells the public what Baker is thinking — and other tells Baker what the public is thinking in return.

"She has a sense of what Baker is doing, thinking or about to do," she expresses that, says Jim Anderson, a correspondent for UPI who has been covering the department for 21 years. "Because the State Department is run by that inner circle of Baker and six or seven others this is an invaluable source of information."

"Her weak point is that her institutional memory doesn't go back before 1989; anything prior to that is just a black hole," Anderson said. "I wouldn't put her as the very best, but I would put her toward the high end of the scale, although in the beginning I wouldn't have rated her that highly."

But Tutwiler is more than a source of information for the public. She also serves as a political early-warning system for Baker. One of her jobs is to spot potential flaps before they start and head them off before they can do damage.

"She is extremely good at being able to catch the drift of the way the press is going," said a



State Department official who watches her closely. "She can tell when something is about to become a major issue. She has a very good sense of what will play in the media. She can predict how a policy will play in different parts of the U.S. and deal with that from a public relations standpoint. This is one of her great values to Baker."

At first glance, it seems absurd that Baker, a seasoned political operative who was Bush's campaign manager, would need such help. But for all his

when Baker was secretary. Some of Tutwiler's predecessors apparently had a much broader mandate than she seems to have when it comes to telling the public about the inner workings of the State Department. These predecessors often "covered" the department as if they were reporters trying to ferret out information from the bureaucracy. The result was sometimes a tense rivalry between spokesmen who wanted to get information out and other officials who wanted to keep it secret.

"Her weak point is that her institutional memory doesn't go back before 1989; anything prior to that is just a black hole," Anderson said. "I wouldn't put her as the very best, but I would put her toward the high end of the scale, although in the beginning I wouldn't have rated her that highly."

political acumen, the secretary sometimes finds it difficult to make the sort of gesture that comes as second nature to politicians around the country.

For example, when Baker toured the black township of Soweto in South Africa, he seemed oblivious to a schoolyard full of photogenic kindergarten children — until after a quiet conversation with Tutwiler.

Tutwiler was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1950, the heiress to fortunes in coal and steel. Since her graduation from the University of Alabama, she has been immersed in politics, usually working 14-hour days. And, since 1976, she has worked on the re-election campaign of President Ford. Tutwiler has worked with and for Baker. She was in the Baker-managed Bush campaign in 1980 and 1988. She was on former President Reagan's White House staff when Baker was chief of staff and she was chief spokesperson for the Department of the Treasury

Tutwiler is careful to say no more than Baker wants her to. Some spokesmen suffered from divided loyalties — to the secretary of state and to the public's right to know. Tutwiler has no such dilemma. "I work very hard at trying to do both (serve the public and the department). But I never lose sight of the fact that my first and foremost loyalty must be to the president and the secretary."

She admits that some of her earliest briefings were painful. At the start, some aspects of policy that were well-known to her audience of reporters were total mysteries to her. But she has learned quickly.

"It was terrifying," she said. "On a very steep learning curve, I had to learn all at once under a very sensitive microscope." She said she has finally come to realize that "no one is humanly capable of learning every nuance of foreign policy." — Los Angeles Times

## Intifada

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians said Jabalya refugee camp, where the intifada erupted on Dec. 9, 1987, after four Arabs were killed in a crash with an Israeli lorry, looked like a ghost town.

"It seems like all 1.75 Palestinians in the territories are indoors. There is no action," a Palestinian source told Reuters. He said a military curfew on almost the entire strip had kept a lid on the occupied territories.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) issued leaflets calling for attacks on Israeli targets.

"The cycle of violence will not stop except by restoration of rights," the PFLP leaflet said. It praised recent Palestinian guerrilla attacks near the Israeli border and inside the Jewish state.

The U.N. Security Council was expected to vote Saturday on a resolution critical of Israel's treatment of Palestinians, but the United States risks offending friends, including its Gulf allies, no matter what it does.

After delays throughout the week council President Abdallah Al Ashtal scheduled a formal meeting for 5 p.m. (2200 GMT), thereby forcing Washington to line up for or against a controversial peace conference on the Middle East.

As one of the four sponsors of the resolution on the protection of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, Ashtal, the Yemeni delegate, is anxious for a vote — even if it draws a U.S. veto.

The resolution's other sponsors are Colombia, Cuba and Malaysia.

In conversations with reporters Friday Ashtal said there was little room for compromise on the draft, which is expected to be endorsed by all other members of the 15-nation council.

Nevertheless, Malaysian Ambassador Ismail Razali, chief negotiator for the sponsors, held last-minute talks with U.S. ambassador Thomas Pickering to reach a solution.

The main stumbling block is a provision for the council to consider an international peace conference on the Middle East, an initiative strongly opposed by Israel.

Although the text reflects the official U.S. position and leaves

the date and structure of such a meeting vague, the very mention of it has become a symbol of a shift in U.S. policy.

## Foreigners

(Continued from page 1)

began arriving in Baghdad Saturday.

The 41 Japanese men who arrived in Amman were accompanied by 64 Japanese women and children and Kanji Inoki, a former sumo wrestler and now member of parliament. They left for Tokyo aboard a chartered Japanese airline Saturday evening.

In Caracas, President George Bush said Saturday he was pleased with Baghdad's pledge to release all foreigners but did not feel it brought closer a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"I want a peaceful solution," Bush told reporters here. "I don't feel we are closer to a peaceful solution."

Bush seemed to imply that Friday's decision to withdraw the staff from the beleaguered U.S. embassy in Kuwait after all foreigners are sent home was intended to make even easier a decision to use force against Iraq if it fails to withdraw from Kuwait.

"I think you can make the case that this facilitates the tough decisions that might lie ahead," he said of the decision to evacuate the Kuwait embassy.

Bush, on a South American tour, was asked to elaborate on this remark. He replied: "I just mean that when you don't have Americans there, and if force is required, that's just one less worry I've got."

The president was in Venezuela on the final leg of a five-nation goodwill tour of South America.

Bush said he remained pessimistic about an end to the crisis simply because Iraq had not yet agreed to leave Kuwait.

"Saddam Hussein continues insisting that Kuwait is a province of Iraq and that he will not get out of Kuwait, and that is the fundamental point around which the whole world is united against him," Bush said.

"I'm glad the hostages are coming home. They never should have been taken in the first place," the U.S. president said. "When you kidnap somebody you should not expect a reward when you let the person go."

In response to a reporters'

question, Bush flatly denied that the decision to take the staff out of the Kuwait embassy was "a payback" for the Iraqi decision to free the foreigners.

"It is no payback," he said. He said that when all the U.S. nationals held in Kuwait had been freed by Baghdad there would no longer be any reason to keep the embassy open.

Bush made the comments in a joint news conference with Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez, before speaking to a luncheon of the business leaders.

Bush told Perez, "good answer," when Perez told the reporters that as a small country Venezuela cannot accept the invasion of one country by another. He congratulated Bush for his "prudent decision" to open talks with Iraq.

Bush said those talks will not be a negotiation, but are intended only to reinforce in person the U.N. demand that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait.

Bush, praising Venezuela for its increase in oil production in the face of the cut off from Iraq and Kuwait, said there is no worldwide shortage of oil despite the increasing prices.

He blamed the price surge on "paper barrels of oil" being manipulated by international futures markets.

Bush in his subsequent luncheon remarks said Iraq "threatens the world's economy through economic blackmail."

Speaking to the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce, Bush said that Venezuela, a key hemispheric oil producer, has shown "magnificent leadership" in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

"You acted resolutely and responsibly in denouncing Iraq's conquest of Kuwait in the United Nations," Bush said.

Among other steps, Venezuela has increased oil output since the Gulf crisis erupted last August.

Bush believes that the threat of war in the Gulf remains strong, even though Iraq's decision to release all American and other foreigners is a step forward, his spokesmen say.

The British government Saturday advised its citizens hiding in Kuwait to come out and begin packing to go home, the Foreign Office said.

The British message was broadcast on the BBC World Service about 3 p.m. local time (1200 GMT).

## LETTERS

### A plea to help

To the Editor:

I am an Australian engineer who is at present in Jordan hoping to get to Iraq to contribute towards peace in the Gulf and the Middle East. I am here at my own expense.

Three months ago I wrote to the Iraqi government requesting permission to enter Iraq and suggested some effective peace moves. Since that time I have also written to President Saddam Hussein along the same lines. Recently I also sent the president a personal telegram requesting the opportunity of contributing, with other "peace people" in Iraq, towards the common goal of preventing war.

President Hussein has obviously not received any of my correspondence as I would not still be refused entry into Iraq after five weeks of waiting for a visa in Amman.

My efforts have no doubt been hampered by some government official in Baghdad and I believe those efforts have been undermined by the Australian government whose policies towards the Arab peoples I have strongly and publicly criticised.

In my correspondence with the Iraqis, I suggested a number of initiatives towards achieving peace in the region. These are:

— To hold a massive and effective peace rally in Baghdad during Baker's (U.S. Secretary of State) intended visit. This rally could include all the foreign "peace activists" now in Baghdad.

— To organise an effective demonstration by the foreign "peace activists" on the Kuwait/Saudi border to confront the U.S. and British forces.

— To encourage hostages/guests in Iraq and Kuwait to offer themselves to stay and help with the peace movement. I would personally ask Australians to participate in that role.

— To ask hostages/guests to make personal appeals for peace to their respective countries. This has not been done and could be quite effective using television.

— To reveal on television the serious effects that the sanctions and blockade are having on the children of Iraq. This nightmare for children and families is like Vietnam and Cambodia all over again and ironically it follows just one month after the United Nations got together and vowed to help save and protect the children of the world.

It should be emphasised that the children of Iraq are just as beautiful as the children of America, Britain and Australia (or any other place) and should be protected from the stupidity and horrors of war.

The Arabs should be aware that the Australian government's aggressive policy against Iraq and others in this area is not supported by thinking Australians who want a peaceful end to the present confrontation and (in particular) to the holocaust being imposed by Israel on the Palestinians.

Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister has neither the courage nor initiative to oppose the policies of Bush, Baker, Thatcher and Major (and others, including Israel's Zionist supporters) who are determined, for numerous reasons, that the Arab nations be economically and militarily weak.

It is clear (there is no doubt) that the destiny and well-being of the Arab nations (and the rest of the world) will be determined by the outcome of this present Gulf crisis.

It is vital that the forces of peace, tolerance and goodwill win this struggle against the policies of those who currently oppose Iraq and the Palestinians.

I would just like to add that there are not too many non-Arabs willing to enter Iraq at this time of impending war. Most are clamouring in fear to get out. This being the case, I am wondering why the Iraqi government has so far refrained from approving my application for a visa for me to enter Iraq so that I can play a role with others to help achieve peace. I was hoping to return to Australia by the New Year and certainly before I "go broke."

John (Jack) King  
c/o Steven Hotel  
Jabal Al Hussein  
Amman

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**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**











«Le mur du saule-pleureur» de Taher al-Adwan

## La vie des Jordaniens dans les années 1950

Rares sont les œuvres littéraires jordaniennes qui évoquent les moments forts de notre histoire contemporaine. Parmi celles-ci pourtant, le dernier roman de Taher al-Adwan intitulé «Le mur du saule pleureur». L'auteur y décrit la vie de la Jordanie et des Jordaniens des années 1950. C'était une période importante et cruciale pour la génération qui nous a précédés. La Jordanie venait juste de sortir de la première confrontation avec ce qui sera Israël après 1948. L'exode des centaines de milliers de Palestiniens, le début de la vie politique multipartite, la lutte nationale contre le colonialisme britannique et la montée du nationalisme arabe.

L'histoire se déroule à Sweileh, alors petit village jordano-hybride. Les personnages du roman évoquent chacun une tranche de vie sociale et politique jordanaïenne de l'époque.

Youssef est un officier expulsé de l'armée par le chef anglais

Glubb à cause du courage et du patriotisme dont il fait preuve au cours de la guerre contre les sionistes en 1948. Il retrouve son travail après l'expulsion du général britannique, le 1er mars 1956. Il est plein de nostalgie pour sa maison, en Palestine occupée.

Le boulanger, lui aussi, se rendait en Cisjordanie tous les mois avec sa femme pour regarder sa maison de l'autre côté, cachée derrière le mur du saule-pleureur — c'est le nom du roman.

Ali est un militant baïthiste, aux origines bourgeoises, venu de Kerak après avoir fait des études de lettres à l'université de Damas. Il s'efforce de rallier les jeunes au parti.

Jaber, c'est l'épicier, chez qui les copains se réunissent pour échanger des informations politiques et sociales et pour discuter de l'actualité.

Farid, instituteur et militant communiste cherche à organiser les «prolétaires» dans le parti.

Les jeunes filles du village, Leyla et Samira, cherchent le prince charmant et flirtent avec les jeunes hommes en vue du mariage.

Ceux-là et bien d'autres constituent la société de Sweileh, micro-typique de la société jordanaïenne de l'époque. Al-Adwan raconte la vie des gens, leurs joies, leurs peines, leur enthousiasme et leur frustration, tant sur les plans sentimentaux et sociaux que sur les plans politiques et militaires. C'est une fresque vivante de nos souvenirs et de nos ambitions dans ces années-là. Ce roman se lit en souplesse, avec tendresse et nostalgie.

L'œuvre d'al-Adwan peut être considérée comme une sorte de littérature socio-historique. A travers ce récit on recapitule certaines mœurs et traditions sociales qui ont presque disparu de la vie jordanaïenne aujourd'hui. A titre d'exemple, l'échappée du boulanger n'était pas uniquement le lieu où l'on se procurait le pain, mais aussi un lieu de rencontre sociale entre les habitants du village ou du quartier.

L'arrêt de bus et le bus lui-même étaient encore le lieu où les amoureux pouvaient s'échanger des regards et où l'on pouvait faire des rencontres inhabituelles. Enfin, les pages où l'auteur décrit minutieusement l'installation de la radio dans le village pour la première fois sont à la fois amusantes et significatives. C'est l'occasion de faire la fête. La radio bouleverse les idées et les conceptions des villageois dans les domaines politiques et culturels. C'est l'époque où les idées nationalistes romantiques gagnent du terrain.

Néanmoins, malgré les victoires, on sent le ton de l'amertume monter au fil des pages. «Les capitales tombent mais le mur du saule-pleureur reste», allusion sans doute à la persistance du danger sioniste.

Pourtant un défaut jalonne le roman: l'auteur «saute» par-dessus un chapitre important de cette époque: l'annulation du traité jordano-britannique (le 13 mars 1957) et le gouvernement Nabulsi (unique gouvernement

d'opposition de gauche élu démocratiquement dans toute l'histoire politique de la Jordanie). On comprend mal comment les personnages peuvent évoquer d'autres événements moins importants et négliger ceux-là. L'explication est peut-être dans le fait que l'auteur a achevé son œuvre en février 1989, deux mois avant les événements d'avril, qui ont marqué le début de la libéralisation dans le pays. Il est probable que si al-Adwan avait attendu un peu, il aurait écrit un roman plus complet.

Mais cette lacune — même si elle est importante — ne diminue pas la valeur de ce nouveau roman.

Rappelons enfin que celui-ci a été précédé en 1987 d'un premier roman de l'auteur, «Le visage du temps», consacré à la vie des Jordaniens dans les années 1940.

Suleiman Sweiss

«Ha'et al-Sofrah (Le mur du saule pleureur) de Taher Al-Adwan, aux éditions Al-Karmel (Amman, septembre 1990).

Auteur du premier vol à moteur

## Qui était Clément Ader?

9 octobre 1890. Dans le parc du château d'Armainvilliers, propriété des banquiers Pereire, situé à proximité de Paris en Seine et Marne, quelques arbres ont été abattus. Une sorte de piste en terre battue a aussi été aménagée: toute droite, deux cents mètres de long. Il est près de 16 heures: la journée a été belle, un peu froide, sans vent.

A l'une des extrémités une drôle de machine: une sorte de cage en bambou montée sur des roues de bicyclette et prolongée de chaque côté par une sorte d'aile nervurée tout à fait semblable à celle des chauves-souris. On entend le halètement d'une machine à vapeur et on sent le souffle de la grande hélice qu'elle entraîne. Une douzaine d'hommes s'activent autour de l'engin, chargé à refus la chaudière de briquettes de charbon.

Clément Ader, le visage tendu, s'installe entre les ailes: ce matin et cet après-midi même cette machine qu'il a baptisée «Eole» a fait plusieurs allers-retours sur la piste, roulant de plus en plus vite mais sans qu'il ose donner toute la puissance (12 CV). Et il a eu plusieurs fois l'impression que...

Mais cette fois, la chaudière rouille, la pression est au maximum et il a bien l'intention de «tout lâcher». Les assistants retiennent l'engin, contrainant l'effort de l'hélice qui tourne de plus en plus vite, puis, sur un signe d'Ader, lâchent tout... L'Eole roule, ses ailes battent l'air... et tout va très vite: gauchement, maladroitement, cette masse de 280 kg se soulève et les roues quittent le sol...

Sans de pace

Oh, cela n'ira pas très loin, ni très haut: 40 à 50 centimètres d'altitude et une cinquantaine de mètres en longueur! Mais il s'agit bien du premier vol au monde d'un engin volant à moteur.

Tout à découvrir

Et c'est ainsi qu'après maints tâtonnements nous en arrivons au vol historique du 9 octobre. Tout

était à découvrir, y compris les notions les plus rudimentaires du pilotage... A preuve: il recommence en septembre 1891 avec le même «Eole», intact après son premier vol. Mais ce deuxième vol d'une centaine de mètres est interrompu par un obstacle qu'il ne peut ou ne sait éviter. Pourtant, il tient à son idée, s'acharne sur ses plans et réussit à intéresser les militaires qui lui donnent un appui financier (il avait dépensé plus de 600.000F) et officiel.

C'est alors qu'il crée le mot «avion» et l'avion No 3, bimoteur, vole sur près de 400 mètres en 1897. Alors, la politique et l'Administration s'en mêlent, l'Etat retire son aide et Ader renonce à poursuivre seul. Le secret militaire ayant pleinement joué, l'œuvre et les réalisations aéronautiques de Clément Ader resteront pendant plus de 15 ans connues des seuls «initiés».

En 1908, alors qu'il sait que la relève est assurée après les vols de Santos-Dumont, de Fiebert, de Blériot... il publie un livre prophétique: «L'aviation militaire», où tout ce qu'il prédit se réalisera et aura une grande influence, alors qu'il n'existe encore aucun avion à l'inventaire d'aucune armée. La justesse de ses vues lui vaudra d'être couvert d'honneurs après la guerre de 1914-1918. Cet homme génial, ce précurseur qui réussit le premier vol historique d'un «plus lourd que l'air», mourut le 3 mai 1925.

Plusieurs cérémonies officielles commémoreront cette année la date historique du premier vol à moteur. Mais l'initiative la plus enthousiasmante est celle des trois dernières promotions de la célèbre Ecole Centrale, dont les élèves ont réalisé une reproduction exacte en vraie grandeur de l'«Eole», avec laquelle ils espèrent bien traverser la Manche.

Jean Chabrier

## A L'AFFICHE

### Expo «Forêt Goethe»

#### Bourdonnement monotone autour d'un parc ancien

Sigrid Neubert, auteur d'un classique de la photographie moderne allemande, revient au thème du parc avec une visite en Jordanie de la forêt Goethe. Son livre Der Park, étude du château de Nymphenbourg près de Munich - à travers toutes les saisons et les changements de lumière et d'ambiance - était une merveilleuse étude de formes. Ici, c'est la Nature plutôt que la conception architecturale de châteaux et de jardins qu'elle met en lumière.

Que nous offre-t-elle dans cette exposition (placée sous l'égide de l'Institut Goethe) présentée au Visitors' Center d'Aqaba jusqu'au 10 décembre puis en tournée dans les villes du sud: Pétra, Tafelieh (dates incertaines)? Regrettablement rien qui coupe le souffle: un projet décevant qui ne représente pas son art et est loin de mettre en œuvre le dessin bien arrêté pour lequel le Département des Forêts du Ministère de l'Agriculture l'avait invitée, en octobre 1988. Elle devait préparer une étude scientifique destinée à présenter la forêt Goethe au public: une étendue de 4.000 ha, au sud de la Jordanie, composée de chênes, de genévriers et de cyprès, entre Tafelieh et Shobak près du village historique de Dana. C'est pour honorer le travail des forestiers allemands, au premier rang desquels Carl Gustav Freytag von Hahn, qu'un décret royal de 1987 l'a baptisée du nom du poète et homme de science allemand Johan Wolfgang von Goethe - pionnier lui-même, par ses études de botanique au XIXe siècle, de la sylviculture.

Quelles sont les particularités de ce paysage que Sigrid Neubert a discernées à travers l'objectif de sa caméra? Ses photos de ce paysage majestueux de rochers et d'arbres, pour la plupart en couleurs avec ça et là des clichés noir et blanc, nous aident-elles à nous en rapprocher?

Ni les uns ni les autres n'y parviennent: les panneaux en couleurs présentent une perspective trop générale; ceux en noir et blanc révèlent une sensibilité à la recherche de son vrai sujet photographique. On a le sentiment que l'artiste a commencé à s'intéresser aux remarquables formes humaines, animales ou simplement singulières que le roc suggère et qu'elle a voulu ajouter à une exposition dont le but était scientifique un point de vue personnel qui, malheureusement, ne dépasse pas le stade de l'ébauche.

Sur le plan scientifique, les photos, nécessairement en couleurs, soulignent une association entre arbre et rocher mais on ne trouve aucune photo de détail. La monotonie de ces panneaux imprimés est doublée par un manque de relief dans le procédé photographique. Sigrid Neubert est restée fidèle à sa mission en prenant des échafaudages documentaires de ce paysage insolite sans le personnaliser. Mais elle s'est limitée à l'enregistrement sans le faire découvrir avec force au spectateur.

Pour leur part, les forestiers ont fait peu d'efforts pour nous dévoiler les mystères de cette forêt. Deux pages de notes polygraphiques expliquent abondamment la fructueuse coopération entre l'Allemagne et la Jordanie, expliquent la place de Goethe dans l'histoire littéraire et scientifique et expliquent tout ce qui reste à faire pour que la forêt soit étudiée sérieusement. En revanche, les questions du spectateur restent sans réponses.

Partant des photos, on peut s'interroger par exemple sur la différence entre les arbres solitaires et ceux qui vivent en bosquet. Apparemment, il y a ceux qui s'entrelacent étroitement au rocher et ceux qui se tiennent à l'écart, en champ ouvert. Lesquels sont-ils, pourquoi?

Les forestiers ont pratiquement ignoré le problème des désastres naturels et n'ont pas prêt attention à la géographie humaine. Sur certaines photos, on remarque les traces d'un feu forestier. Comment s'est-il produit, quelle est sa fonction dans l'écologie de cette région désertique? Une photo d'un ancien pressoir à olives témoigne du passé oublié de ce terrain. Quel était-il? Et quel est le rapport de l'ancien village de Dana (trois photos) à cette forêt?

La monotonie (absence de détail et d'information solides) est augmentée par un manque de rythme dans l'ensemble. L'arrangement des photos est peu-à-peu, sans logique scientifique ou esthétique. Il y avait pourtant des possibilités: les photos du lever et du coucher du soleil auraient pu être utilisées pour orchestrer des chapitres séparés, par exemple, les différentes catégories d'arbres.

Espérons que lorsque l'exposition arrivera à Pétra et à Tafelieh, ces lacunes seront corrigées, et espérons une deuxième chose: que Sigrid Neubert, qui nous a donné Der Park, revienne en Jordanie pour achever le travail qu'elle a commencé à esquisser en noir et blanc, son point de vue personnel sur ce terrain insolite.

Sami Kamal

## TELEVISION

### DIMANCHE

17h30 - Téléfilm policier de la série «Le Lynx».

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Camer de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h00 - L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.

18h15 - Denver le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.

18h30 - Santé Vision. Magazine médical.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h00 - Capitaine Marc Simon. Dessin animé.

18h15 - L'école des fées. Des enfants interprètent le répertoire d'un chanteur célèbre, sous la houlette de Jacques Martin.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Extraits de musique classique.

MERCREDI

18h00 - «De Gamble ou l'éternel défi». Sixième épisode de la série de Jean Lacouture sur ce grand personnage français qui aurait eu cent ans cette année.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sélection de variétés.

JEUDI

18h00 - L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.

18h15 - Snorky. Dessin animé.

18h35 - Splendeur sauvage. Documentaire sur la vie des animaux.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Reportages d'actualité.

VENDREDI

17h30 - «Subway». Film français de Luc Besson, avec Christophe Lambert et Isabelle Adjani.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Histoire de l'art. Série documentaire.

SAMEDI

18h00 - Les clés de Fort Boyard. Course au trésor exigeant des candidats courage physique et bonne culture générale.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Aujourd'hui en France. Magazine culturel français.

CINEMA

Fantastique. Quatre films fantastiques, petits par la durée mais grands en qualité, sont présentés cette semaine par le CCF dans le cadre de la série qu'il propose ce mois-ci sur le court-métrage.

Courte Cinéma Français, le lundi 12 décembre à 20h.

Lang. Dans le cadre du festival Fri Lang, présenté par Sami Kamal, deux films du grand cinéaste expressionniste allemand: «Das Testament des Dr. Mabuse» et la première partie de «Nihilismus», dont la suite sera présentée la semaine prochaine.

Institut Goethe le dimanche 9 à 20h pour le premier et le samedi 15 à 20h pour le second.

Sabri Farah

## PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

### Réponse

Ave Flavia,

Tu me demandes de parler de moi. J'ai envie de te dire comme le Christ «tu ne me chercherais pas si tu ne m'avais déjà trouvé», tu ne m'écritais pas si tu ne me connaissais déjà. Je conçois pourtant qu'après ces neuf longs mois de correspondance ta verve s'épuise faute d'encouragements de ma part. Tu as besoin peut-être de mieux me cerner pour aborder des thèmes plus secrets, adopter un style plus direct.

Je n'ai pas l'habitude de parler de moi, tout au plus consigné-je mes actes de la manière la plus neutre, voire la plus austère possible, pour pouvoir m'en souvenir et aussi pour qu'ils acquièrent plus de réalité, une durée qui soit au moins à l'échelle de ma vie. Je n'en demande pas plus, la pénétration ne m'intéresse pas mais je refuse d'oublier, de perdre la trace de ce qui m'a marqué. Je me raconte pour moi, mais la conscience de l'égoïsme de cet acte me rend folle et mon style devient, par réaction, par mortification, sec et volontairement sans relief. Bref, me raconter me rend nerveuse et c'est un bien grand effort que tu me demandes. Mais peut-on refuser quelque chose à une si fidèle amie?

Tu me sais vive, décidée, exigeante, intransigeante, passionnée, inlassablement curieuse: tout cela est vrai. Tu me connais également femme, fragile, rêveuse, toujours prête à céder à des penchants nonchalants, doucereux et mièvres: cela aussi est vrai comme il est vrai que je ne peux supporter que quiconque en soit témoin. Je n'en suis que plus dure, intraitable voire condescendante habituellement. Mais ce qui, je crois, te permettra de mieux me cerner c'est mon exigence d'absolu qui est aussi à l'origine de ma quête.

Dotée de nombreux dons et de plus de richesses qu'il n'en est possible de réunir à ton époque, je menais à Rome une existence que beaucoup m'enviaient. Quelque chose pourtant manquait à ma vie, une dimension entière qui donne un sens à tous ces biens, un axe qui permet de conférer relief et par là même réalité à notre existence terrestre. Ce vide c'était le manque d'implications intimes dans ma vie spirituelle. Ne sommes nous pas tous ainsi faits que ce que nous avons ne nous suffit pas, qu'il nous faut nous développer, nous améliorer, découvrir. N'est-ce pas ce bien, cette quête qui nous maintient en vie?

Quoi qu'il en soit, je sentais que ce qui manquait à ma vie à Rome, je le trouverais en Orient, là où la lumière sourd du sol et des visages, des mains ouvertes et des cœurs dans lesquels brûle l'amour du prochain. Cette terre qui nous rapproche, j'y cherchais le berceau de ce qui est humain, de ce qui est bon et grand en nous. Je crois que j'y ai trouvé. Ou devrais-je plutôt dire que j'y ai compris et surtout admis que ce n'est pas ici-bas que je le trouverais? Ce pays exceptionnel, je l'ai aimé, je l'ai sillonné à outrance, comme beaucoup de choses que je fais. Je l'ai détesté aussi pour la lenteur avec laquelle il se révèle, se dévoile, et parce que je n'y ai pas trouvé la paix que j'espérais, la sérénité qui me permettrait d'arrêter ma course folle, mon besoin de me déployer dans l'espace. Car il s'agissait aussi d'une fuite. Vois-tu, il n'est pas possible dans la Rome du IVe siècle de vivre sa foi de manière personnelle. Or mon exigence me disait d'aller au-delà des fastes naissants de l'Église, de remonter à la source de ma croyance. Tu auras compris qu'outre mon irrépressible envie de voir, de savoir, de connaître, de croire aussi, il y avait le besoin de m'isoler un peu, d'avoir des idées, voire des croyances, qui me soient propres ou du moins soient librement choisies. Tu l'auras compris car tu vis cela chaque jour, mais n'oublie pas qu'au moment où je t'écris seule la foule a une voix, un pouvoir: la puissance ce sont les hommes, la religion c'est le groupe. Et moi je suis lasse de mon entourage, de ces gens qui me suivent partout, jusque dans l'ascension des monts sacrés que j'aurais voulu solitaire. En fait je suis seule et ce d'autant plus que je suis entourée. Seule avec toi pourtant qui me parles et me comprends. Toi que je sais intransigeante et fragile, toi qui aurais pu être ma sœur.

Tu savais tout cela Flavia: tu le savais mais tu avais besoin de l'entendre, de le lire de ma main. Cette correspondance unilatérale te pèse parfois. Tu as peur de te livrer sans contre-partie, ne sommes-nous pas tous semblables? Moi qui suis loin et qui ne risque rien à me dévoiler, t'ai-je tout avoué? Je te parle de l'amour et de la vie, deux choses dont le Ciel m'a abondamment pourvue.

Dans ce mon que mon voyage en Terre Sainte m'a appris à apprécier. Mais je ne t'ai par exemple pas dit que ce périple a échoué dans ce qui était pour moi l'un de ses buts les plus importants: la découverte de l'humilité. Flavia, jamais encore je n'ai admis cela, pas même en mon for intérieur, mais je crois que ma quête a été vaine: je n'ai pas découvert le dessein que Dieu a pour moi et je ne peux accepter qu'il n'en ait point!

Vale, Flavia!

Cette lettre d'Egeria est une réponse à la lettre de Flavia Romero du 4 novembre dernier, intitulée «Sincèrement vôtre». Elle est écrite par M. L., lecteur français, qui n'a pas souhaité donner plus d'informations sur son identité.

## Aristote et les Nations-Unies

[Pour être bien conseillé, Bush, encore vice-président, entreprit de faire construire un ordinateur super-géant (baptisé Aristote) doté d'un système d'intelligences artificielles extrêmement perfectionné. Tout récemment mis en service, celui-ci avait déjà convaincu Bush qu'il était de l'intérêt des Etats-Unis de laisser les Arabes résoudre eux-mêmes la crise du Golfe et lui avait suggéré le moyen de désolidariser le lobby juif d'Israël.]

Bush, qui au début des années 1970 avait servi près de deux ans comme représentant de son pays aux Nations-Unies, avait écrit dans son autobiographie, publiée récemment, que l'ONU «ne faisait que refléter les tensions qui existaient dans le monde sans pouvoir les résoudre». Néanmoins, les derniers développements survenus en URSS, en Europe de l'est et surtout dans la région du Golfe, l'amenèrent à penser que l'ONU devait dorénavant jouer un rôle plus actif pour promouvoir la loi internationale et la faire respecter. Il ne s'agissait plus seulement d'empêcher les conflits locaux mais aussi de trouver les moyens de faire face à des dangers qui commencent à menacer sérieusement l'humanité entière: explosion démographique, addiction à la drogue, pollution, crime organisé, terrorisme et SIDA. De son bureau oval, il prit son téléphone rose et appela Aristote pour discuter de son idée.

«Bonjour M. le président, je suis à votre service.

«Bonjour Aristote. J'aimerais voir le rôle de l'ONU renforcé pour empêcher les conflits sanglants, protéger contre les dangers imminents qui le gazent et faire régner la justice entre les hommes.

«Vous avez là, M. le président, un programme bien ambitieux qui ne pourrait jamais être réalisé à travers l'ONU: avec sa charte et ses structures actuelles, elle est vouée à échouer, comme l'a fait tout récemment la Ligue arabe.

«Amelez-vous sa charte et ses structures! Quelles modifications proposez-vous?

«Simplement que la nouvelle charte soit conforme au principe de Montecitorio.

«Le principe de la séparation des pouvoirs?

«Exactement, M. le président. L'Assemblée Générale détient le pouvoir législatif. Néanmoins, comme il n'est pas du tout équitable qu'un pays comme l'Inde qui compte près de huit cent millions d'habitants soit traité, au sein de cette assemblée, sur un pied d'égalité avec le Liechtenstein qui n'en compte qu'à peine 30.000, je propose que le vote de chacun des représentants soit pondéré en fonction du nombre des habitants de son pays.

«Je ne comprends pas très bien.

«En bien voilà: A supposer que l'on convienne de donner une voix pour dix millions d'habitants, le vote de notre représentant comptera pour 25 voix du fait que notre pays compte 250 millions d'habitants; en revanche, celui du représentant du Liechtenstein ne comptera que pour trois millions de voix. Par ailleurs, les lois

seront adoptées au sein de l'Assemblée à la majorité simple et devront être respectées partout dans le monde.

«Cela semble équitables mais dangereux. Les pays du Tiers-Monde, avec l'explosion démographique qu'ils subissent, finiront bientôt par devenir majoritaires au sein de cette assemblée.

«Et bien non! La première loi qui doit passer devant l'Assemblée générale devrait être une loi sur la limitation du nombre d'enfants qu'aurait le droit de mettre au monde une femme pendant sa vie (la fécondité). Avec les votes de la Chine, du Japon, de l'URSS, des pays de l'Europe et de l'Amérique du nord, la loi passera facilement. Si la fécondité est fixée dans la loi à deux enfants par femme, le nombre d'habitants du monde n'augmentera que très modérément pour finir bientôt par se stabiliser.

«Avec le pape, d'autres chefs religieux et les intellectuels barbus, votre loi ne passera pas si facilement, mais personnellement le Conseil de Sécurité qui assumerait le pouvoir exécutif?

«Pas exactement, car il n'y a pas plus de Conseil de Sécurité. On aura à la place le Gouvernement Mondial, ou Cabinet Mondial, avec un Premier ministre et une vingtaine de ministres.

«Je présume que les membres permanents du Conseil de Sécurité seraient membres de droit de votre cabinet et que le Premier ministre serait américain.

«Et bien non, M. le président! Le Premier ministre sera élu par l'Assemblée Générale à la majorité simple. Son gouvernement une fois formé ne devra pas compter plus d'un ministre par région.

«Par pays vous voulez dire.

«Non pas par pays mais bien par région. Je m'explique: le globe sera partagé en une cinquantaine de régions géographiques comptant chacune une centaine de millions d'habitants.

«Et qui nommera ces ministres?

«Le Premier ministre bien sûr, mais il devra obtenir la confiance de l'Assemblée en son gouvernement. Celui-ci devra en particulier démissionner aussitôt que l'Assemblée lui aura retiré sa confiance. A la suite du vote d'une motion de censure par exemple.

«Et qu'advient-il des organisations onusiennes actuelles telles que l'UNESCO ou la FAO?

«Elles disparaîtront et seront affectées à l'un ou l'autre des ministères mondiaux.

«Et le droit de veto?

«Il n'y en aura plus. Avouez tout de même que c'est une pratique tout ce qu'il y a de moins démocratique!

«Comment pourrions-nous donc continuer à défendre les agressions israéliennes sans ce sacré veto?

«Et bien, Israël n'aura à l'avenir qu'à bien se tenir.

«Ce sera difficile! Passons! Et qui détendra le pouvoir judiciaire?

Sabri Farah



## Gulf crisis inflicts massive economic damage on Jordan

By Ralph Dannheisser

AMMAN — Talk with the ordinary Jordanian or with some of the country's leading economists and the view expressed is the same: their nation has suffered more from the fallout of the Gulf crisis than any other but Kuwait itself.

They cite a wide spectrum of economic damage, from loss of export markets and a sharp falloff in tourist trade to the staggering costs of carrying the flow of evacuees from Kuwait and endangering access to the oil that keeps a modern society running.

Many blame their problems, at least in part, on what they see as unfair treatment by the nations allied against Iraq — discrimination that they say is based on a mistaken belief that Jordan's moderate approach reflects official as well as popular support for Iraq.

The views expressed by the typical worker in businesses that rely on a suddenly absent flow of visitors are personally-

oriented and direct.

A taxi driver needs a little encouragement to tell his troubles to a passenger. "I have been working since six this morning, for almost four hours," he says, "and I have made three dinars."

He points at his gasoline gauge. "Now I need three dinars in petrol," he says.

The driver makes a sweeping motion towards the boulevard ahead. "Look, it is like Friday. You see nobody."

A small shopkeeper complains to a visitor that he cannot make it, due to early closing hours imposed by the government in order to conserve fuel.

A desk clerk at the Amman International Hotel, near the university, has a similar story. The hotel's occupancy rate is now 17 per cent, compared with the nearly 100 per cent rate normal at this season, he says.

Even that is an improvement. For August the hotel had been 15 per cent overbooked in advance; when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait An-

gest 2 raised the threat of a broader conflict, cancellations swiftly brought business to a total standstill.

"This has really done terrible things to our country," he says, especially at first when "no one wanted to come here." Still, he says, "You must live. You must survive. You cannot sit and do nothing."

The economists provide the figures to put the situation into broader perspective.

Bassam Saket has served as minister of agriculture and secretary general of the royal court. Now he is chairman of a public-private joint venture that operates two major cement factories.

Saket flatly declares Jordan "second after Kuwait in terms of economic losses and material suffering" from the Gulf crisis.

Citing government figures that put the total projected full-year cost to Jordan at \$3,200 to 4,200 million, he says even those numbers are underestimates because they reflect

only static losses.

While the reduced value of exports may show up as \$300 million, he says, that ignores "the dynamics of the figures" — aspects like the decline in potential jobs that are associated with the lost trade opportunity.

The reentry into the country of many Jordanians who had been working in Kuwait also carries with it costs that have not been fully accounted for, Saket says — including a curtailed flow of remittances into the country, the need to find jobs for the returnees and increased pressure on services like health and education.

All this is heaped upon major losses to the country's small business trucking operators, staggering increases in insurance rates and problems related to Jordan's almost total reliance on Iraq for oil, he says.

Saket insists that Jordan has not received proper credit for complying with United Nations-ordered sanctions against trade with Iraq, not-

withstanding the massive problems that compliance creates. As a result, he says, compensation for the massive losses has been slow in coming.

Another businessman, economist, one with close ties to the present government, strikes a similar theme.

The man, who asks that his name not be used, says Jordan has fared far worse in terms of allied reimbursement for losses than anyone else, despite a higher level of suffering that the sanctions impose.

While gross monetary losses may be on a par with those incurred by the other frontline states — Egypt and Turkey, he says — those nations can spread the effect over a far larger population. They each have some 50 million people while Jordan numbers only 3 to 3.5 million, he says. Thus, he notes, the losses amount to perhaps 4 to 6 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) to Egypt and Turkey, but a staggering 30 to 50 per cent of Jordan's GNP.

He readily identifies what

he sees as the problem: while the government has been clear in rejecting the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait, it has consistently pushed for a diplomatic solution and opposed the buildup of outside forces in the region.

At the same time, elements of the press and public have been vocal in their support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, clouding the fact that a "silent majority" backs the government.

The result, he says, is that "people outside Jordan confuse what the press and the man in the street say" with the official position of the government.

Thus help has been slow in coming, he says, noting that only 17 million dollars has been compensated of some \$1,500 million in demonstrable losses so far — though another \$150-190 million is expected shortly from Japan and Germany.

Like Saket, he voices concern that failure to address Jordan's needs could eventual-

ly undermine the government's stand.

"If there is a serious economic crisis in Jordan, then the man in the street will look at the government and say, why should you implement sanctions any more?"

"The farmer in the Jordan Valley who is going bankrupt because he can't sell his tomatoes to Iraq will say, 'Why should I continue to see my tomatoes rot? I'm going to break the sanctions,'" he says.

Jawad Anani, a consulting economist who formerly held posts as minister of supply, of labour, and of industry and trade, says the economic crisis could not have come at a worse time.

He notes that Jordan, already suffering from declining foreign exchange earnings, price increases and escalating unemployment, was in the midst of implementing an adjustment plan worked out with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"In the first half of this year, we thought we were making

it," Anani says. "The inflation rate dropped from 25 per cent in 1989 to 12 per cent, and we hoped for 1.5 per cent real growth in GNP compared with a minus 1 to 2 per cent the year before."

But continued improvement depended on growth in exports, on further receipt of some \$500 million a year in aid from Gulf countries, on increasing remittances from Jordanian workers abroad. "When the Gulf crisis erupted, all these were threatened," he says.

Still, Anani is cautiously optimistic.

"I would make a bet on the fact that war would not take place, there is ample room for negotiation," he says. And if there is no war, he says, "I am not worried about the Jordanian economy."

Even if a resolution came quickly, Anani acknowledges, "we will spend at least two years trying to convalesce." But after that, he says, steady improvement could be expected — U.S. Information Agency.

## U.S. unemployment rises, interest rates fall

WASHINGTON (R) — A big jump in U.S. unemployment in November triggered interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve and several banks as fears intensified that the economy was sinking into recession.

The Department of Labour said on Friday the jobless rate rose to 5.9 per cent in November from 5.7 in October. Job numbers fell 267,000 in November after a 178,000 October drop.

"We have not seen consecutive job losses of this magnitude since the end of 1982," the trough of the last recession, Janet Norwood, commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, told the joint economic committee of Congress on Friday.

Economists said the data showed the economy had entered into recession, usually defined as six months of declining economic

activity. Many believe the economy was contracting during the final three months of the year.

Following release of the Labour Department report, the Federal Reserve — the U.S. central bank — moved to ease interest rates slightly.

The Federal Reserve signalled it was lowering the key federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other for overnight loans, to 7.25 per cent from 7.5 per cent, by injecting money into the banking system.

Two U.S. banks responded to the jobs data by cutting the prime lending rate charged to the best customers to 9.75 per cent from 10 per cent effective on Monday. The prime rate is used as a benchmark to set many business and consumer loans.

More banks are expected to follow, with prime rate cuts, but

such moves have been delayed by the poor environment for lending, which has cut into bank earnings.

Some economists said the jobs data was so negative that they expected the Federal Reserve to take a bolder step to boost the economy and lower its discount rate, the interest the central bank charges on overnight loans to banks.

"These numbers are so severe the Fed has to take dramatic action," said Paul Lally, economist at Citicorp Investment Bank. Along with other economists he expects the central bank to lower the discount rate to 6.5 per cent from seven per cent.

It would be the first discount rate change since February 24, 1989, when it was raised to 7.0 per cent from 6.5.

## Germany cancels Ethiopia's debt

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Germany has cancelled Ethiopia's debt of \$70 million and granted the poor Horn of Africa nation a \$30 million grant, the Ethiopian news agency reported Saturday.

The agency said the debt relief and the grant were announced in Addis Ababa on Friday during a visit by Siegfried Leng, the secretary of state in the German federal ministry of economic cooperation.

The news agency said the debt relief "vividly manifests the commitment and initiative of the government and people of Germany to ease the debt burden of least developing countries."

West Germany was one of Ethiopia's leading donors before the military ousted the late

## Canada's unemployment jumps, recession takes hold

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's unemployment rate rose to its highest level in more than three years in November as manufacturing jobs withered in the face of recession, a government agency reported on Friday.

Statistics Canada said unemployment rose to 9.1 per cent in November from 8.8 per cent in October, continuing a sharp upward trend underway since the spring.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, under attack in the house of commons from opposition parties, pledged to work for lower interest rates to kickstart Canada's stalled economy.

"We are going through a period, along with others, of economic difficulty, we recognise that," Mulroney told parliament. "And we are seeking to bring

about lower interest rates to re-energise the economy to make sure we go through another period of impressive economic growth."

After seven years of expansion, the government reported last week that the Canadian economy contracted in the July to September period for the second consecutive quarterly decline — the generally accepted definition of a recession.

Gross domestic product declined at an annualised rate, after taking inflation into account, of 1.0 per cent in the third quarter after a second-quarter decline of 1.2 per cent.

In November there were 1,246,000 unemployed across Canada, up 36,000 from the previous month.

The agency said goods-producing industries trimmed payrolls because of sharp declines in manufacturing and construction.

"All across this country we see the price Canadians are paying for the economic mismanagement of this government," parliamentary Liberal leader Herb Grey charged.

Layoffs in the thousands and a string of plant closures have been announced in recent weeks in the vehicle industry and other manufacturing sectors.

The state-funded Canadian Broadcasting Corp announced earlier this week it was laying off 1,100 people and closing television stations because of a drop in government subsidies and advertising revenue.

## IBM models hit Gulf

ABU DHABI (I.T.) — Gulf Business Machines (GBM) has announced the availability of the latest IBM personal system (PS/2) computers in the Gulf region, just days after they were launched in Europe.

"These machines deliver a new level of computing performance and expandability," says GBM General Manager Mustafa Rugbani. "Because of the design flexibility built into these models, PS/2 customers will be able to 'grow' their systems as their computing requirements grow, while protecting their investment."

The new desk-top models, at the top end of the PS/2 range, are the Model 95 XP 486 and the Model 90 XP 486.

## OAPEC to move to Cairo; Egypt calls for economic unity

CAIRO (R) — Arab oil ministers decided Saturday to shift the headquarters of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) to Cairo from its previous base in Kuwait, delegates meeting in Cairo said.

"The move is on a temporary basis until the reasons for the move have been eliminated," one delegate at the organisation's annual ministerial meeting told Reuters.

A majority of the 10-country organisation has strongly opposed Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and insisted on an immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

It was not immediately clear how Iraq, represented at the meeting by its ambassador to Egypt Nabil Nejmi Al Takriti, voted on the decision.

OAPEC, based in Kuwait since

its establishment in 1968, has been virtually paralysed by the invasion and its secretary general, Abdul Aziz Al Turki of Saudi Arabia, has been operating from Jeddah.

OAPEC groups seven OPEC members — Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya and Algeria — with small producers Syria, Egypt and Bahrain.

Kuwait's exiled government was represented by its Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameri. Egypt calls for unity

Egypt, playing host to Iraq and Kuwait, urged the oil ministers to keep divisive views on the Gulf crisis from affecting their dream of achieving economic unity.

"Our thoughts are overwhelmed by anxiety... over the dangers that threaten the future

of the Arab Nation for long years," Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel said at the opening session.

"We have to get out of the (Gulf) crisis with minimum losses and draw the lessons from the mistakes of the past."

Iraq's Ambassador Al Takriti, is leading a low-level delegation to the annual meeting that would discuss how to promote cooperation in the Arab petroleum industry. OAPEC's 10 members own more than two-thirds of the world's total oil reserves.

Kandeel, OAPEC president since November 1989, steered clear of the strong words that marked Egypt's condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"The first mistake we should avoid is to let political differences affect our economic interests," Kandeel told ministers.

"The Arab peoples have one fate and will return to each other no matter how far apart they are."

Oil, he said, represented the most important wealth for the Arab Nation and "OAPEC is the lighthouse for the Arab petroleum industry."

"If this light is put out our ships will lose their way in the stormy sea of politics."

Unlike OPEC, the Arab group does not discuss oil prices and production policies of its member-states, but its meetings have often provided an opportunity for major oil producers to coordinate policies ahead of OPEC conferences.

The 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is scheduled to hold its biannual meeting in Vienna on Wednesday.

## Much more than farming at stake in suspended GATT talks

BRUSSELS (R) — The collapse of four years of negotiations to liberalise the rules of world trade will affect the long-term business of untold millions of people, from medicine men to movie stars, from hairdressers to handkerchief makers.

A dispute over farm subsidies led the negotiators on Friday to suspend the most ambitious trade talks yet held, the so-called Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The European Community on one side and the United States and farm exporters on the other could not agree how far and how fast to cut subsidies protecting their producers.

But far more than farm handouts was at stake among the 2,500 delegates from 107 countries, who hope to resolve

the issue next year but see no guarantee of success.

"We all lose big by the failure of a successful result of the Uruguay Round," said top U.S. negotiator Carla Hills.

"We were supposed to set new rules for the way the world will develop over the next 20 to 30 years," said Argentina's foreign minister, Domingo Cavallo.

Trade worth \$1 trillion a year, almost one third of all commerce, is not yet covered by GATT, the world trade watchdog.

U.S. bankers complain they have trouble setting up shop in India. Chinese clothing makers want to sell more to the United States. Film-makers complain of counterfeit videos in Taiwan and medicine manufacturers say their recipes are copied in Brazil.

Complaints like those

prompted trading nations to launch the Uruguay Round in 1986. Countries from Algeria to Zimbabwe all hoped to benefit from the results.

Most developing countries wanted cuts in the costly farm programmes of industrialised nations, whose subsidised over-production robbed them of markets, stifled trade and cost the world an estimated \$250 billion a year in lost income.

Poorer countries also wanted a chance to sell more of their goods, especially textiles and products like bananas and flowers, to consumers in rich countries.

Businesses in advanced economies were eager for rules to protect the export of services, which include banking, insurance and even hairdressing and are worth \$678 billion a year.

GATT rules never covered services, even though they account for 60 per cent of economic output in industrialised countries and 50 per cent in poor nations.

International businesses also wanted guarantees that they would not have to meet unfair demands if they invested in developing countries.

Although most countries appealed for trade liberalisation, the talks reached deadlock over farm subsidies. Negotiators said the setback has wide economic and political implications.

Brazilian Ambassador Rubens Ricupero said exports were indispensable for developing countries going through painful economic adjustment. "If we don't have a fair and open trading system, we will be left in the cold," he said.

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## Workers destroy portraits of former Bangladeshi president

DHAKA (R) — Government workers destroyed portraits of former Bangladesh President Hossein Mohammad Ershad Saturday as military officials wondered what to do with the man himself.

Groups of youths broke the plaques in two fashionable Dhaka promenades named after Ershad, who resigned Tuesday after a bitter opposition campaign to oust him.

"We must stamp out vestiges of a ruthless and despotic military ruler," said Mohammad Nasir, a senior official in the Home (Interior) Ministry.

"This is essential for our new-found democracy," he said as he trampled a huge portrait of Ershad inside the central secretariat, which reopened Saturday after a caretaker government took power two days ago.

Most of the 15,000 employees of the secretariat returned to work Saturday after five days of turmoil that eventually forced

Ershad to resign and hand over power to Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad.

Officials in Dhaka and elsewhere reported that thousands pulled portraits of Ershad from office walls as work resumed.

Nasir said the government had to spend about \$2 million on the portraits after Ershad ordered they be hung in all offices across the country to project him as a popular head of state.

"That is just one minor instance of how he squandered the state fund for his own benefit," Nasir added.

Military sources said they were in a quandary as to what to do with Ershad, who is holed up in the official residence of the army chief in Dhaka's garrison area.

Ershad had lived in the house since seizing power by toppling an elected government in 1982, obliging army chiefs to settle for more modest quarters.

"It's a catch-22 situation for us," said a military official.

"We cannot allow him to leave the country in view of the public demand for his trial. Neither can he be permitted to stay in the cantonment with so much of a stigma around him," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Opposition parties have asked Ahmad, now head of a caretaker government, to put Ershad under arrest so he can stand trial for what they describe as perpetrating a reign of terror.

"He must not be allowed to run away from the law," said Begum Khaleida Zia, chief of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

"We are about to restore democracy where accountability is the essence," said Sheikh Hasina, leader of the opposition Awami League.

"And that accountability must now start from Ershad. He must face trial," she said.

Youths destroyed a plaque

Saturday in Ershad Square, an expensive, lush green promenade in Dhaka's Tejgaon district close to the president's secretariat, and another in the Baridhara diplomatic enclave named after the former president.

The campaign to oust Ershad intensified after he proclaimed a state of emergency on Nov. 27 and imposed strict press censorship in a last-ditch attempt to suppress opposition.

Ahmad, who will be the country's caretaker president until a parliamentary election is held within three months, said he was reluctant to deal with Ershad because the issue was beyond his authority.

"As far as I am concerned, my job is to restore order and hold elections within three months," he said in an interview with the Voice of America radio network.

"As for the rest of the matter, it is for the next government to take up," Ahmad said.

## BBC poll gives Tories 8 point lead

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservatives have taken a strong lead over the opposition Labour Party since Margaret Thatcher quit as prime minister, according to a monthly survey conducted by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The BBC Newsnight poll of polls, the first since Thatcher resigned on Nov. 22, gave the Conservatives an eight-point lead over Labour, one of their highest ratings since the 1987 general election.

It said support for the Conservatives had risen from 33 per cent in November to 47 per cent while Labour's rating dropped eight points to 39 per cent.

But new Prime Minister John Major failed to top Labour leader Neil Kinnock when voters were asked if they were satisfied with their performances.

Kinnock was backed by 35 per cent of those polled, down from 42 per cent in November, and Major by only 33 per cent.

Some newspapers criticised Major Saturday for advising Queen Elizabeth to confer an hereditary title on Thatcher's husband, Denis. The honour will be passed on to their son, Mark.

"In honouring Denis Thatcher with a baronetcy the queen bestowed on Mark Thatcher an hereditary honour he has not earned," Today newspaper said in a front-page article.

The Daily Mirror said: "Mr. Major, the man who entered Number Ten (Downing Street) promising to create a classless society, has revived an honour last created in 1964."

The queen awarded Margaret Thatcher the Order of Merit, one of Britain's highest honours. It elevated her to an exclusive circle of 24 which includes violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

## Georgian Communists split from main party

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party in Georgia, swept from power last month in the republic's first free elections for 70 years, officially split from the main Soviet Communist Party Saturday.

Local journalists said a party congress in the capital Tbilisi had adopted a new set of rules which did not mention the Soviet Communist Party once.

"The Communist Party of Georgia is an independent political organisation operating on the basis of its own programme and party rules within the framework of the constitution of Georgia," they quoted the rules as saying.

The party's new leader, Avtandil Margiani, said Friday he supported demands by Georgia's new nationalist government for independence from Moscow.

But the congress postponed the adoption of a new party programme after delegates disagreed over what the party should be called.

Last month's elections brought in a nationalist-dominated parliament which wants full independence for Georgia within five years.

The Communists had been expected to do well because they too campaigned for independence, but they were hit by growing disaffection with Communist rule at the Moscow level and won only 64 of the 250 seats in parliament.

The decision to break with Moscow mirrors that of the Communist parties in the three breakaway Baltic republics which chose the same path after nationalists swept to power there in free elections last year.

The congress adopted a resolution saying the party would work towards restoring Georgia's full sovereignty.

Many Soviet republics, which want more control over their resources and affairs, have declared national sovereignty, but only the Baltic states and Georgia so far have said they want full

independence. Like the Baltic republics, Georgia has said it will not sign Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposed new union treaty redefining the central government's relations with the 15 republics.

Some delegates at Saturday's congress said the party should remove the word Communist from its title as it no longer reflected the party's aims.

The full party programme will be adopted in a month or so after members have been polled about a new name and other aspects of the programme.

Margiani, 45, replaced Givi Gumbardize as Georgian Communist Party leader during Friday's session of the congress.

"I see the main goal of the party as pursuing the politics of the parliament. The goals of the party and parliament should be the same," he told reporters after being elected.

Gumbardize had earlier told delegates the party needed a new leader to rebuild its power as an opposition force.

Georgia's president, former dissident Zviad Gamsakhurdia, has announced a transitional period for the five years leading to independence.

The Georgian Communists did not cut off all links with Moscow, reserving a right to attend central party congress as observers during the transition period.

After the main Communist parties in the Baltic republics declared independence, small groups of pro-Moscow Communists broke away and formed separate parties.

There were signs Saturday that this process might be repeated in Georgia, where the congress was boycotted by party members from the autonomous areas of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The independent Lithuanian Communist Party was holding a congress Saturday to decide its future amid speculation it would transform itself into a Social Democratic Party.

## Only one E. German spy has turned himself up

BONN (R) — Germany's chief spycatcher has said only one former agent for East Germany's foreign espionage network had given himself up so far — and he emerged from the Bonn counter-intelligence agency's own ranks.

Agency head Gerhard Boeden told journalists the only spy to confess had been Klaus Kuron, a senior official for the Bonn Secret Service, and said it would be hard to uncover others unless the government declared at least a partial amnesty.

Other spies for the Communist state, which disappeared on unification with West Germany on Oct. 3, are apparently still living double lives in the hope they will not be unmasked, he said. Press reports number them in the thousands.

Bonn considered a controversial law offering a partial amnesty last summer but said it did not have enough time to prepare the draft before unification.

Boeden said he hoped the new parliament elected in all-German polls last Sunday would issue some sort of pardon.

"We've only had one agent giving himself up, and he was a man in our own firm," Boeden said. Kuron stunned his superiors in October by revealing he had worked for East Berlin's Ministry of State Security — the hated Stasi — for eight years without being even suspected.

Boeden said Kuron only gave himself up because he mistakenly thought his Cologne-based Office for the Protection of the Constitution would take up his offer to work as a "double agent" against the Soviet Union.

About 20 people, several named by Kuron, have been arrested since unification. The federal prosecutor's office announced the arrest of two more suspected spies Friday, including one employee of the counter-intelligence service branch in Hanover.

Other agents, paid off by East Berlin and promised their files would never fall into Western hands, seen to be more concerned about unemployment if they come forward than they are about being uncovered, Boeden said.

"This is the biggest obstacle ... they assume nobody from the HVA will sing. That's a mistake, they'll all be caught. But it will take many years and it will keep opening up old wounds."

The HVA — the Stasi's Central Intelligence Administration — ran the espionage network headed by Markus Wolf, the fugitive spy master now on the run from a German arrest warrant.

In the Soviet Communist daily Pravda Thursday, Wolf said he wanted to go home and that his spy work had to cease after a conference in Paris last month formally ended the cold war.

About 200 former Stasi employees had contacted his office to ask about their future if they handed themselves in, but few were from the HVA, Boeden said.

Federal investigators have arrested 24 people this year for espionage, according to Justice Ministry figures.

Boeden said there were now so many Stasi files circulating in Germany that no spy could be sure he would not be uncovered.

"There is a lot of material being offered for sale," he said, admitting his office had paid for some files.

## Lithuania asks for direct aid to stave off hunger

TORONTO (R) — The president of Lithuania urged the West Friday to consider giving food aid directly to the Baltic republic if the Soviet Union carries out its threat of another economic blockade of the region next year.

President Vytautas Landsbergis told Toronto's Lithuanian community that the Soviet Union had threatened to stop all essential goods going into the state on Jan. 1 if it does not sign a unification treaty with Moscow.

"We have been told we will no longer be given grain," Landsbergis said.

"Please do not let your aid be used as a weapon against us," he added.

Lithuania declared itself an independent state last March and was immediately faced with a 2½-month economic blockade by the Soviet Union. It agreed to a moratorium on independence

when the Soviet Union said it would begin talks with the republic.

Landsbergis said that since then things had taken an alarming turn and the Soviet Union had threatened violence if Lithuania had not signed an all-union treaty with Moscow. The treaty would confirm the Soviet Union's view that the Baltic states are subordinate.

Landsbergis said there was no turning away from the independence movement now.

"The desire to walk outside now that the door is half open is overwhelming. Even if there was a storm raging outside the desire would still be overwhelming," he said.

Landsbergis was in Canada for talks with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney before flying to meet President George Bush this weekend.

## S. African leaders invited to township battlefields

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African Council of Churches is urging political, religious and business leaders to tour black townships in an attempt to stop factional fighting in which more than 90 people have been killed this week.

"We believe that South Africa as a nation cannot allow this type of carnage," said the council's general secretary, Frank Chikane, in a letter sent out Friday inviting 70 people to make the trip to townships near Johannesburg on Dec. 12.

Among those asked to visit the worst scenes of fighting are Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress and chief Mangosuthu Buthe, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

A long-standing feud between ANC and Inkatha supporters has cost 4,000 lives in four years in Zululand of Natal province and spread in August to the Johannesburg region where more than 1,000 people have been killed.

The council, which groups various churches, has also invited leaders of the ANC's radical rival Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) as well as trade unionists and businessmen, including an executive of the giant Anglo American Corporation of South Africa.

Among religious leaders asked to join the tour are Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris.

Ambassadors of Western countries and veteran liberal politician Helen Suzman have also been invited.

Chikane's letter said: "The purpose of the visit is to enable you to independently assess the effects of the violence on the residents and to gain your own insights as to the cause of the violence."

Members of South Africa's white government were not asked.

On Saturday police said they had found the bodies of three people in Bekkersdal, west of Johannesburg, and two in Daveyton, to the east, who had been hacked, stabbed and stoned to death.

## No threat of famine in Moscow — deputy mayor

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow's deputy mayor said Saturday the Soviet Union's major cities desperately needed the food aid now flowing from the West but the capital did not face famine.

Sergei Stankevich also said the Moscow City Council would create a special commission to protect aid for the capital from the black market.

"The food stocks in Moscow are enough to guarantee that there will not be a situation as in Ethiopia," Stankevich told a news conference. "That is why I try to avoid terms like famine, civil war and food riots."

Stankevich said the Soviet Union's failing economy was the main reason for its food crisis.

"The reasons for the crisis are not only corruption and distribution. The first and the main reason is there is not a normal exchange between the agricultural and industrial parts of the country," he said. "The economic mechanisms do not work."

Western diplomats and Soviet journalists say that outdated transport networks, a thriving black market and poor attitudes to work have also hampered distribution of food and consumer goods as winter sets in.

The Communist Party daily Pravda said food aid from abroad has evoked contradictory feelings among Soviet citizens.

"We thank the good people abroad for their selfless help," wrote commentator Anatoly Karpevich.

"But for some reason people are not feeling joy in their hearts. It's uncomfortable to feel oneself playing the role of the starving... living in such a rich country but suddenly seeming to be on the verge of catastrophe."

Moscow has already received food totalling more than 200 tonnes from Germany, Italy, the United States, Israel and Switzerland, city officials said, and the volume is increasing.

Stankevich said the city council would establish a commission of volunteers to meet planes loaded with goods and monitor the distribution of aid to the needy, including the elderly, disabled children and poor families.

The daily Moskovskaya Pravda said KGB security police officers, deputies from the city council and senior officials would inspect premises where the food aid is stored.

The KGB has also set up a special department to fight economic crime.

"It is controlling the storage and use of imported food as well as the arrival of foreign aid," the

Soviet News Agency TASS said. "Already, a mass of abuses have come to light: Theft, mismanagement, crimes by those in charge and elements of sabotage."

A KGB colonel told the news agency.

Meanwhile Berlin, brushing aside painful memories of a Moscow blockade of the city, has launched an airlift of relief supplies to the Soviet Union.

And in a day full of historical irony, Bonn's Defence Ministry said Friday Moscow had agreed to let German Armed Forces transport food supplies donated by the state of Lower Saxony.

A ministry official said the Soviet Union would allow the German Air Force to fly 60 tonnes of children's food directly to the Russian city of Ivanovo on Dec. 13 and 19.

Moscow has previously refused to let the German military set foot on Soviet soil for fear of reawakening memories of the Nazi invasion in World War II.

Berlin's relief effort involves moving food stockpiles, laid on after the Red Army blockaded West Berlin in 1948-1949, to Soviet citizens who face a harsh winter of shortages.

West Berlin survived the Soviet blockade with supplies flown in by the Western allies in an operation that became known as the Berlin Airlift.

A first instalment of Berlin's aid, 3,000 tonnes of milk powder and medical supplies, was Friday loaded onto Soviet army trucks to be driven to waiting Soviet Air Force planes.

Former West Berlin's stockpile, worth half a billion marks (\$330 million) and filling 70,000 square metres of storage space, contains enough to feed 10 million people for a month, city official Gerhard Erbe said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vitaly Shelezniak, commander of the 42-truck Soviet convoy, said: "We did not expect things to go so fast and we never expected the Berlin Senate (city government) to give us its reserves."

"We will do everything to ensure they really reach the needy people."

The city government decided last month to donate the stock, no longer needed in a united Germany, as part of a massive private and official effort to help the Soviet Union which made unification possible.

A city official said it would take eight to 12 weeks to transport the 180,000 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the Soviet Union by air and sea.

## Cossiga at centre of storm over Gladio

ROME (R) — A political storm has erupted in Italy over President Francesco Cossiga's reported threat to stand down unless the government confirmed the legitimacy of a secret group set up during the cold war to fight a Warsaw Pact invasion.

Italian newspapers reported Saturday that Cossiga sent an ultimatum to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Friday demanding that the government take a clear stand on the legitimacy of the group known as Gladio.

"Cossiga threatens to go," the top circulation La Repubblica said in a headline echoed by all

Italian newspapers. Political sources said Cossiga, 62, was unhappy with a cabinet decision to set up a commission of senior judges to investigate whether Gladio had violated the constitution.

The move irked Cossiga because he had helped to draw up Gladio's formal structure when he was a young junior minister in the early 1950s, they added.

The sources said Cossiga had demanded a clear statement from Andreotti on Gladio's original legitimacy in a letter which reached the prime minister in the middle of a cabinet meeting.

Andreotti abruptly adjourned the meeting and issued a statement saying Gladio was legitimate at the time of its founding. This move narrowly averted a major crisis that would have left Italy without a president.

Cossiga's office did not release the letter or disclose the contents of a talk between Andreotti and a presidential envoy.

The newspapers said Cossiga was ready to stand down temporarily and hand over his largely ceremonial post to the senate president while the judicial commission investigated Gladio.

## 2 killed in China bomb blast

PEKING (R) — At least two people died and an unknown number were injured when a bomb exploded tore apart a bus Friday in the southern Chinese city of Chengdu, city authorities said Saturday.

The bus blew up as it passed a giant statue of former leader Mao Tse-tung overlooking the city's main road. The explosion ripped a gaping hole in the vehicle and threw it onto its side as flames engulfed the wreckage, said an official at the city's Foreign Affairs Office.

"It has been confirmed that there are two people dead so far, but we have no figure yet on how many are wounded," said the official contacted by telephone

from Peking. "It was a bomb but we don't know who the criminal is yet," he added.

Acts of terrorism are rarely reported in China's officially-controlled press. The government made repeated calls for citizens to surrender all weapons last year, after demonstrations for democracy were suppressed in many parts of China.

The scene of Friday's bomb was near city government offices. Students demonstrating for democracy in May and June of last year drew large crowds in the same area. Rioting broke out after police violently dispersed them.

An official at the city's televi-

sion station said he thought the death toll from the bombing would rise because the bus was crowded and the explosion fierce. Windows in the surrounding area were shattered by the blast.

A police official, contacted by telephone said the incident was under investigation and added that police were "unclear" on the motive for the bombing.

A Chengdu resident said: "We're not sure if it's sabotage aimed at Mao or a bungled attempt to take revenge for last year."

"Mao survived unscathed," he added, noting that the statue stands on a tall pedestal set back from the road.

## Shuttle's makeshift space observatory working well

HOUSTON (R) — A makeshift observatory aboard the U.S. space shuttle Columbia is working well although it can see only half of what it was designed to observe, astronomers said Saturday.

Ground controllers helped the seven-man crew of Columbia, launched Sunday for a 10-day mission after a six-month delay, to point the observatory's four telescopes at such celestial mysteries as quasars, supernovas, pulsars and black holes.

The aiming system for the observatory, called Astro-1, "amounts to a jury-rigged system, but it's working," said Jack Jones, head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) mission.

A computer used by astronauts to see where the spacecraft's telescopes were pointing had to be switched off Thursday when a "scout of something hot" filled the flight deck, NASA said.

This left the astronauts with little to guide the telescopes other than voice commands from flight controllers to the Columbia crew who manoeuvred the telescopes.

But the new system was work-

ing well enough to allow at least half of the planned targets to be observed, scientists said.

"In my opinion on the tally sheet of the human spirit, Astro-1 is already a resounding success," said Chris Anderson, a professor at the University of Wisconsin and a key player in the observatory's development.

"A thrill went up my spine," said Ted Gull, chief scientist of the project, as he watched the shuttle crew line up the telescopes with a distant star system and start taking scientific data.

The astronomers appeared to be closing ranks to praise the Columbia crew after a series of failures crippled the mission's plans to glimpse more than 250 celestial objects.

"I think most of you out there are getting the wrong impression about the mission," said Art Davidson, another key scientist in the current mission.

"This is not a failure by any stretch of anybody's imagination."

"We've had a lot of setbacks, but success is in hand here," Davidson said. "We're really happy."

Earlier astronauts aboard Columbia told U.S. school children in a lesson broadcast from space Friday they were getting an unprecedented view of the universe despite computer problems in their space lab.

"We're having to do it a little more differently than we planned, but we're doing it and the scientists are getting very excited by the data we're gathering for them," astronaut Ron Parise told the children.

Parise said the problems with an automatic telescope aiming device had created a "tedious and time-consuming" job for the astronauts, who have been pointing the instruments manually since their launch Sunday from the Kennedy Space Centre.

"We had a pretty big shopping list," said University of Wisconsin Professor Art Code. "We do not think a sort of bean-counting method of keeping track of the number of objects observed is the proper way to assess the success of this mission."

Parise and three other astronauts took time out from their celestial observations to give a 20-minute astronomy lesson and

answer questions from two dozen pre-college students selected to participate because of their science skills.

The session was broadcast live by satellite to classrooms throughout the United States.

Payload specialist Sam Durrance explained the crew's mission with three ultraviolet telescopes and an X-ray telescope that comprise the Astro Observatory.

"Looking at the stars or other objects in just visible light is sort of like listening to a piano with only a few working keys. You miss most of the song," Durrance said.

The shuttle telescopes can see light that is absorbed by Earth's atmosphere and unseen by humans.

The televised lesson, titled "Assignment: The Stars," was designed to teach students about the electromagnetic spectrum and other basic principles of astronomy.

It was NASA's first attempt at using a shuttle for live instruction since the shuttle Challenger disaster in January 1986 that killed New Hampshire school teacher Christa McAuliffe.

## Column

### Intruder found in grounds of Buckingham Palace

LONDON (R) — An intruder discovered in the grounds of Queen Elizabeth's Buckingham Palace residence was charged with being equipped to cause criminal damage, British police said. Derek Smith, 32, an unemployed man arrested earlier in the day, will appear in court Saturday, they said. Security around the royal family was sharply increased after a man, Michael Fagan, broke into the queen's bedroom in 1982. He sat on her bed and chatted to her for half an hour before palace staff came to her aid. But intruders have continued to outwit royal security staff. Vandals broke into a toilet at Windsor Castle, west of London this year and a masked man armed with a hammer and nails was arrested in 1987 in the grounds of Kensington Palace, used by the Prince and Princess of Wales when they stay in London.

Arrest warrant out for actor.

LOS ANGELES (R) — An arrest warrant was issued for 19-year-old U.S. film actor Corey Feldman, who waged a highly publicised campaign against drugs, after a judge was told Feldman had been suspended from a live-in drug programme.

Feldman, who has appeared in such films as Stand By Me, The Lost Boys and The Goonies, has been arrested twice this year on drug charges and had been ordered to take part in a live-in drug rehabilitation programme.

He was arrested for a third time for failing to appear in court on a traffic warrant. A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles district attorney's office said Feldman had been suspended from the drug programme on the grounds he had violated programme rules.

Deputy district attorney Peter Cagney said he had been in touch with Feldman's lawyer, and arrangements were being made for the actor to surrender next week.